

## WOMAN WITH A WHISTLE

Julia Lee warms up for the Varsity match

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## BROWN'S BUDGET TEST

Anatole Kaletsky on the challenge to Labour

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## ON THE TOWN, ON THE CHEAP

The joys of urban downsizing

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## THE FUTURE OF WORK

Libby Purves

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# Vendetta against me, says Prescott

By PHILIP WEBSTER, NICHOLAS WATT, PAUL WILKINSON AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

JOHN PRESCOTT claimed last night that he was the victim of a "coordinated and shadowy" campaign to undermine him in his constituency.

last year at his garage in Hull, when old computer papers were stolen, the theft of dustbins from outside his home, anonymous calls by people making false allegations to local and national newspapers, and, most recently, claims that his son Jonathan was involved in questionable property deals were all part of the same plot.

to suspend the Hull Labour Party, pending investigation of allegations of impropriety and police inquiries into expenses claims and child abuse. "It may be that someone wants to pay me back for that," Mr Prescott said.

wife, Pauline, and their son found it upsetting. "The linked episodes make you nervous."

been commissioned by Labour councillors opposed to Mr Prescott but had gone "freelance" to sell their so-called revelations.

council files showing details on the rates of 17 properties owned by Mr Cutting. He used similar methods at the offices of the gas company Transco to obtain information about another house.

that his son has done anything improper. "This is a curious kind of vendetta," he said. "Shady people are going round offering things to papers, sending things to local branch parties about me—they are all lies—but ringing my bank manager up was about the last straw."

# McAliskey wins fight against extradition

By RICHARD FORD, ROGER BOYES AND MARTIN FLETCHER

ROISIN MCALISKEY, the terrorist suspect, last night won her 15-month battle against extradition to Germany on IRA bombing charges.

Mr Straw's decision, made only days before Sinn Féin decided whether to re-enter the peace talks, was condemned as "appeasing republicanism" by hardline Unionists.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, ruled that Ms McAliskey, who is suffering from post-natal depression, should not be sent to Germany because the extradition would be "unjust and oppressive".

However, he said that his decision did not reflect on the quality of the request from Germany to extradite Ms McAliskey in connection with an IRA mortar bomb attack on a British army barracks in Osnabrück in June 1996.

Ms McAliskey, 26, is free to leave the mother-and-baby unit of the Maudsley Hospital in Beckenham, Kent, where she has lived since May but it is understood that, acting on doctors' orders, she will not leave immediately. She gave birth to her daughter Loinnir at the Whittington Hospital in north London.

The statement said that Mr Straw had explained his decision, reached after he studied the papers at the weekend, to the German Government. It added: "It does not reflect in any way on the fairness of the German legal system or on the quality of the extradition request."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice in Germany declined to comment. But the German authorities will be both relieved and frustrated by the British refusal to extradite Ms McAliskey.

The case, which exposed some of the weaknesses of European extradition law, hinged on what German defence lawyers saw as rather shaky evidence.



Roisin McAliskey: free

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Louise Woodward with her father, Gary, at the appeal hearing yesterday. She may have to wait until the summer to learn her fate

# Baby could be exhumed if au pair faces murder retrial

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN BOSTON

LOUISE WOODWARD may have to face full retrial over the death of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen — and if she does, her defence lawyers are prepared to ask for the baby's body to be exhumed.

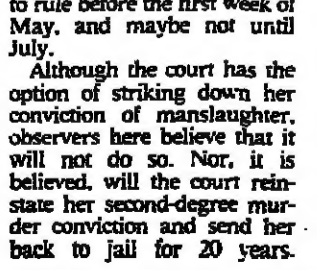
Instead, a retrial has emerged as the most likely outcome. Ms Woodward's lawyer Andrew Good argued yesterday that the defence had been denied access to crucial evidence because the baby had been buried after the state's post-mortem examination.

the baby's death had been an old injury. Asked by Justice John Greaney whether he would need to exhume the body in the event of a retrial, Mr Good said: "Yes, we would ask to exhume, if it would prove efficacious."

script and a judge says "no". Ms Singh then argued that Judge Zobel had abused his statutory discretion in substituting his verdict of manslaughter for the jury's verdict of murder.

After the hearing, Miss Woodward's lawyers played down the prospect of a retrial. Mr Good said: "We're looking for an acquittal. Nothing else will satisfy us. If there's a retrial, there will be no conviction."

Mr Good indicated that money would not be an issue should the case go to a retrial. Mr Scheck said: "We've been doing it almost for free for some time now. We're standing by Louise Woodward."



Singh: accused judge



the argument appeared to catch the prosecution by surprise, as it had not been made before. Replying for the state, Sabita Singh, an assistant district attorney, conceded that the defence had never had direct access to the baby's skull, "although they were shown photographs."

Mr Good also argued that there had been a mistrial because Judge Hiller B. Zobel had failed to instruct the jury that they could also conclude that the death had been accidental. He also criticised Judge Zobel's refusal to allow the jury a transcript of some of the evidence, prompting one of the appeal judges to remark: "It's unbelievable that a jury should ask for a typed trans-

But Paul Spellman, Matthew Eappen's uncle, said: "Amidst all the attention that's been paid to Louise Woodward and Judge Zobel, Matthew Eappen has been ignored... Louise Woodward's sentence — 279 days — belittles the sanctity of Matthew's life."

script and a judge says "no". Ms Singh then argued that Judge Zobel had abused his statutory discretion in substituting his verdict of manslaughter for the jury's verdict of murder.

# Keyhole surgery fixes Prince's troublesome knee

By MATTHEW BEARD AND ROBIN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales was admitted to hospital yesterday for an operation to correct damage to his right knee.

used for today. He returned to Highgrove in Gloucestershire, and this morning is due to fly to Wales by helicopter. His programme in Wales includes a tour of the Ford car factory in Bridgend where he will be ferried around the plant in a buggy. He is then due to visit a Prince's Trust volunteer scheme at Park Prison and a young people's art factory at Farnale, in the Rhondda Valley, where he will also see restoration work on a derelict chapel.

personal assistant, already in Wales, said the 49-year-old Prince had previously had a similar operation on his other knee in 1992. On that occasion the surgery to remove damaged cartilage was said to have followed an injury sustained during an early morning warm-up exercise. In similar fashion to yesterday's operation his hospital visit was unannounced and lasted just three hours.

more discomfort as a result of the operation.

The Prince arrived unnoticed before noon yesterday at the private hospital in London, where Princess Margaret is recovering from a mild stroke and where the Queen Mother recently underwent hip replacement surgery.

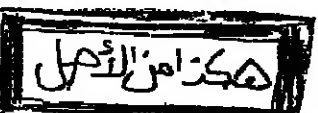
In 1990 the Prince broke his arm playing polo. Earlier this year he broke a rib in a hunting accident. Nonetheless, he kept his public engagements, and little more than a fortnight after the fall went on a tour of Sri Lanka and Nepal.

## 5 facts about stalkers

- under new harassment laws convicted stalkers can receive a 5 year sentence
- about 1000 people have been charged under these laws in the last 8 months
- one survey estimates that 10% of British women have been stalked
- 20% of female murder victims in America were previously stalked by their killers
- princess anne, david beckham and helena bonham carter have all been stalked

tonight 8:30pm on 5

PEOPLE LIFE NEWS





# Captain Soames goes over the ethnic top

DOES Nicholas Soames propose the revival of The King's African Rifles?

The suspicion arose yesterday as Mr Soames stormed in to question defence ministers. Jane Griffiths (Lab, Reading E) had urged the Government to recruit more members of the ethnic minorities to the Armed Forces. Ministers sounded pleased with efforts already made.

As well they might be: the ministry aims for a 5 per cent ethnic contingent by 2001. Said John Reid, the junior minister, he did not mention his own party's recruitment policies. The black or Asian proportion of the Parliamentary Labour Party is 1.9 per cent. Unless Labour stages a ruthless cull of white MPs and replace them with black ones at by-elections, the Armed Forces will beat their



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

political masters at this game.

It was then that Mr Soames rose. A former forces minister himself, the MP for Sussex Mid was once Captain Soames of the Hussars. Wouldn't it be a good idea, he rumbled, "if members of the ethnic minorities were able to serve together in — er — bigger blocks?" Soames argued that they would feel less isolated. The minister found it an interesting thought.

Having spent one's boyhood opposing apartheid, it feels strange to spot the old enemy sneaking into the Commons benches in new, politically correct clothes, and making new friends. But

perhaps Mr Soames is right? If so, why not take his logic to its conclusion? The King's African Rifles would be a misnomer for soldiers who were neither African nor the King's. Perhaps the Queen's Ethnic Fusiliers might serve. And, talking of queens, could Captain Soames have stumbled upon the key to the vexed question of gays in the Armed Forces? The military objection, has always been that for homosexual soldiers to serve alongside heterosexual ones would be awkward. So how about a whole regiment? Recruiting posters could be placed in Old Compton Street in Soho. This could

give the Gay Gordons a whole new meaning.

Another former officer leaping into battle yesterday was the former Captain Brazier — now the Tory MP for Canterbury. Tall, good-natured, guileless, fearless and slightly dazed, Brazier is an ex-Para who reminds us of the story about the Gurkhas who grinded their teeth but saluted on receiving orders to jump from 3,000ft. — and were enormously relieved when told they could take parachutes.

It seems that a little note had found its way from Brazier to the chair. "I understand," said Madam Speaker, calling him to speak, "that Mr Brazier served with The Parachute Regiment."

Brazier rose proudly. "A fine big man!" said the minister, Dr Reid, in slightly



Soames answer to ethnic recruitment

cheeky Scots tones. Captain Brazier's mission was to mount a counter-offensive against rumours that the Paras face the axe. He spoke

of their glories, fiddling with a ghost parachute-toggle somewhere near the beltline. "Nobody's talking about disbanding the Paras," protested Reid — with the urgency of one anxious to reassure a nervous public that the unleashing into civilian life of thousands of Paras — which could make Care in the Community look like a teddy-bears' picnic — was ruled out.

It was good to see the Secretary of State, George Robertson, looking so frisky after his recent anthrax-inoculation photo-opportunity. "I was so satisfied it was safe," he purred. "I plan to have the three further injections that are advised. I've never felt better in my... aaargh." — and he slumped over the dispatch box.

Sorry, I made the ending up.

# Unmarried fathers may be given equal right over children

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

UNMARRIED fathers could be given the same rights of parental responsibility as married men under government proposals published yesterday.

The move comes after growing protests from men who discover they have few rights over the upbringing, surname and adoption of their child — even if they live with the mother in a stable relationship. But academics and family groups said last night that the proposals published by the Lord Chancellor would further undermine marriage by removing the bias against unmarried fathers.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's paper puts forward two options. One would alter the law to create an automatic link between biological parentage and responsibility, so that all fathers would be responsible for their children whatever their marital status at the time of the child's birth.

That would, however, be open to challenge on the ground that the man claiming responsibility was not the father. A mother would also have the right to override the father's rights in the case of a child born after a rape or in a violent relationship.

The second option would give an unmarried man automatic parental responsibility if he signed the birth register with the mother. Under existing law, an unmarried father

has no such rights or responsibilities unless he and the mother sign an agreement that is witnessed and registered in court, or unless the father has sought a parental responsibility order from the court.

The consultation paper says: "Discrimination between married and unmarried fathers in respect of parental responsibility is increasingly seen as unacceptable."

It is clearly impossible to assume that most unmarried fathers are irresponsible or uninterested in their children, and do not deserve a legal role as parents."

In 1996, 232,663 births — or 35.8 per cent of the total registered in England and Wales — were outside marriage. Of those, more than 180,000 were registered with the father's details, but there were only 5,587 parental responsibility orders. The small number of agreements and orders reflects ignorance of the law, with many people assuming that an unmarried father has responsibility if both partners register the birth.

Another anomaly is that unmarried men can be forced to support their children financially even if they do not have parental responsibility.

Under existing law, a child can be adopted without the consent of an unmarried father without parental responsibility. The child's sur-

name can also be changed and he or she can leave the country without his consent.

Jim Parson, chairman of Families Need Fathers, said the changes were long overdue. "An awful lot of fathers assume they have parental responsibility but when the relationship with the mother of the child breaks down they find they have few rights."

Adrian Rogers, of the Conservative Family Institute, welcomed the proposal even though he admitted that it would weaken marriage. He said: "The rights of children should be based on their genetic father. The genetic parents should have responsibility. In the long run that might strengthen marriage."

A man who lost a lengthy battle to force his two-year-old son to be registered with his surname said the proposals would end discrimination against unmarried fathers. Mark Dawson failed in his bid to have his son named after him last August when Appeal Court judges overturned a previous court ruling that the boy should be called Alexander Guy Dawson.

Mr Dawson, 34, from Wellington, Somerset, said, "It would be difficult to overstate how much I am in favour of this move." Mr Dawson, who has spent thousands of pounds on legal fees, hopes to win the right to take his case to the House of Lords.



The television presenter Suzanne Danido at the launch of Marie Curie Cancer Care's Golden Daffodil Day. Laura Ashley stores are to sell lapel pins for the charity

# Euro poll based on party list

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

VOTERS are to be deprived of the right to support individual candidates under polling plans for next year's European elections announced by Jack Straw yesterday.

The Home Secretary disappointed the Liberal Democrats, the Conservatives and electoral reform campaigners by opting for a system that will give additional power to the leaderships of all political parties. The Tories said it had shown power had gone to Labour's head.

Mr Straw has decided to adopt the so-called "closed" system under which voters will cast their votes for the party rather than the individual candidate. The party itself will draw up its list of candidates in its own order of preference.

## VOTERS WANT RIGHT TO SAY NO

Many people are so unhappy with the choice of candidates that they want the right to register an abstention. A number have written to the commission on electoral reform headed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, which has been set up by the Prime Minister, suggesting that the

ballot paper should provide the chance to support "none of the above". Lord Jenkins, who is receiving about 40 letters a day, visits Cardiff today at the start of a tour of Britain to consult the public on whether they want the first-past-the-post system changed and, if so, how.

receiving the highest personal vote was not elected, while the candidate receiving the lowest personal vote was elected.

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that Mr Straw's decision showed that power had gone to his head. Closed lists were a denial of true democracy, he added. "The British people will react badly."

Charter 88 welcomed the decision to introduce PR but said that the closed list left voters to choose candidates solely in the hands of the party machine and "this could not be good for democracy."

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat constitution spokesman, said: "Everyone taking in this debate came down in favour of open lists, and I am disappointed that the Government have not been swayed by that consensus."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Brown declares war on fraud in Europe

Britain yesterday used its presidency of the EU to call on member states to answer individually for billions of pounds of EU funds that have been subject to waste, fraud and mismanagement.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, told finance ministers that he would call on all 15 states to explain what their governments were doing to combat the abuses that are identified each year by the Court of Auditors, the EU's financial watchdog. "We must deal with this issue. If countries are shown to be using money incorrectly they may have to pay it back," he said. The last auditors' report, in November, revealed that 5.4 per cent of the EU budget, representing £2.8 billion, could not be accounted for.

# Sinn Fein silent on funds

Sinn Fein has failed to provide details of its income and overseas donations to the inquiry into party funding. A party official told the Committee on Standards in Public Life that Sinn Fein had yet to decide whether to co-operate with the inquiry. Sinn Fein yesterday refused to return to the Stormont peace talks at the end of its 17-day suspension. Gerry Adams, the president, said the party would decide how and when to return after meeting Tony Blair this week.

# Passive smoking rebuke

The World Health Organisation yesterday accused the tobacco industry of misleading the public about its report on passive smoking. Karol Sikora, head of the WHO's cancer programme, said industry spin-doctors had used tip-offs to the media to highlight passages in a confidential report which they considered favourable to their cause. Professor Sikora said the ten-year study had found a relationship between lung cancer and passive smoking.

# Nurse dies on holiday

A nurse has drowned while trying to save her 69-year-old mother off Gran Canaria. Jacqueline Donnelly, 34, from Middletown, Co Armagh, saw her mother, Annie, get into difficulties as she swam. Witnesses say that the pair seem to have been caught in a strong current. Lifeguards managed to rescue Mrs Donnelly, a retired matron, and last night she was in intensive care. Her other daughter, who was also on the break, was said to be in shock.

# St Paul's casts wider Net

St Paul's Cathedral launched an Internet page where callers can check opening times, read a diary of events, download a map, and take a virtual-reality tour. The cathedral also intends to use the site to spread the Christian message, and will offer memorabilia for sale online later this year to pay the running costs. The £5,000 needed to design the page was provided through sponsorship from BT. The address is: <http://stpauls.london.anglican.org>

# Duke's open house

The Duke of Northumberland is offering his homes in London and the North East as a resource for students and schoolchildren. Alnwick Castle in Northumberland and Syon House in Isleworth, West London, will become bases for studies on anything from gamekeeping to the history of art. The 12th duke hopes the wealth of knowledge, experience and material available in his estate will be used to benefit the public and spread understanding of its role.

# Al Fayed blackmailed

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, was the target of a £75,000 extortion plot that was foiled last March, the Old Bailey was told. Geoffrey Crossley, 49, unemployed, of Lancaster, who is now blind after a road accident, admitted blackmailing Simon Pench, 32, also from Lancaster, admitted attempting to obtain property by deception. The case was adjourned for medical reports and both men will be sentenced in May.

# Rail offer to jobless

Unemployed people in Great Yarmouth or Lowestoft will be able to have free rail travel to Norwich if they have a job interview under a trial scheme introduced by Anglia Railways. The rail company is offering the unemployed up to six free return journeys and, if they get a job, a half-price season ticket for a month. If the three-month trial is successful, the scheme will be extended to the rest of the network in East Anglia.

# Carers need video skills

Knowing how to repair a video or understanding funky music are more important than medical skills in treating seriously ill psychiatric patients, according to a study into a new kind of mental health carer. "If you are able to fix their video or do something useful for them, you can gain their trust and it becomes much easier to treat them," said Matt Muijen, of the Salisbury Centre for Mental Health, which launched the study called *Keys to Engagement*.

# Wonder of Woolworths

Sales staff at a Woolworths store won half of the National Lottery jackpot on Saturday, but will keep their 56-hour jobs. The entire weekday workforce at Woolworths in Leek, Staffordshire, formed the 14-strong syndicate that won just over £4 million. Eileen Holland, 40, at the store for 23 years, said: "It's part of my life. We are more like a family than workmates." The winning numbers — 4, 11, 14, 39, 43 and 44 — were bought on a lucky dip ticket at Woolworths.

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**'Lucky to be alive' babysitter takes positive attitude towards her injuries, reports Simon de Bruxelles**



Beverly Hammett was babysitting for Susan Humphrey, below

Miss Hammer's remarkable presence of mind in the seconds after the attack may have saved her sight, and possibly her life. She said: "As soon as the liquid hit me, I knew it was some kind of chemical because it made the skin on my face tingle like there were thousands of tiny ants crawling over it."

"Although I was shocked I tried to keep calm and think logically. I could not open my eyes because of the smoke and fumes, because I was worried the acid would sting them. The fumes were choking me, so I knew I had to rinse off the liquid as soon as possible."

"Even when she was so weak that she could only get about in a wheelchair, she never became bitter about what had happened to her. She never said, 'Why me?'"

Sentencing Humphrey, the judge told him: "You carry the major share of the responsibility for ruining a young life. For the rest of her life, Beverley Hammitt will re-

**Beverly Hammett has had nine operations on her face since the acid attack**

Miss Hammitt was the first chemical burns victim in the world to be treated with a revolutionary technique for setting skin grafts. Surgeons at the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol used strips of "plastic

She had to wear a protective mask for months to protect the grafts and says the

He added: "She is a certain type of person who is going to get on with things."

**By SIMON DE BRUXELLES**

Before the attack, Humphrey set himself up with an alibi by arranging a blind date with two sisters in a country pub eight miles from his wife's home in Seaton, east Devon.



**Humphrey: arranged alibi for time of attack**

After the trial, Devon and Cornwall police said they would investigate the relationship between Mrs Humphrey and a married police officer who worked on the inquiry. She had known the officer before the attack but had since started an affair with him. In court she admitted she was having a relationship but did not name the officer.

Keith Portlock, the Deputy Chief Constable, said: "The force is not able to confirm the substance of these allegations at this stage as it has only just been brought to our attention, but the matter has been noted by the Chief Constable and will be investigated in accordance with our procedures."

Miss Hammett said of the verdict: "This is a great relief. I believe justice has been done at last."

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Shortly before the hearing was to begin, lawyers for the two councils agreed a settlement with Mrs Cope's representatives. Mr Justice Holland agreed the undisclosed damages in a brief hearing and

There are many ways of indirectly contracting asbestosis. "The commission is this week discussing a complete ban on asbestos."

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

The judge said he had not seen the film, which has earned more than £40 million since its release in 1978, but knew of the controversy it

shown uncut. This licence was notionally valued at £65,000, a sum Mr Munby called "wholly inadequate".

*The case continues.*

**By JOHN GOODBODY**

Bookmakers and McLaren were bombarded with complaints from the public yesterday. Some people had bet up to £1,000 on David Coulthard winning the race, only for the British driver to allow his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, to snatch first.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the world governing body, yesterday rejected the protest by the organisers of the grand prix. Coulthard and Hakkinen had

WILLARD  
JUNE 24-25-26

INTRODUCING TERM SETTING  
FOR FORMULA ONE

FORMULARIN	1/2	PLACES
COND FORM	3/2	FORMULA
	5	STATION

---

DEWES	1/2	WILLARD
FILE	7/4	COND FORM
	10	STATION

**Point taken:** William Hill yesterday introduced team betting for the Brazilian Grand Prix on March 29

made a private pact that whoever was in the lead at the first bend would be allowed to take first place at the finish. In Britain, where about £4 million is bet annually on

the world championship. William Hill said no-one outside McLaren had known about the agreement. Hakkinen had been quoted at 13-8 and Coulthard at 9-4. Graham

He called for team instructions to be announced publicly. However, he said that betting on teams would be introduced for the first time for the Brazilian Grand Prix on March 29. Ladbrokes is also considering introducing team betting.

Mel Goldberg, a sports solicitor with Epstein Grower and Michael Freeman, said yesterday that, under the Betting and Gaming Lotteries Act of 1963, it was possible that punters could sue both McLaren and Coulthard.

**Motor racing, pages 50, 52**

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# Diana trust gives £1m each to her Big Six charities

By KATHRYN KNIGHT  
AND DANIEL MCGRORY

THE six favourite charities of Diana, Princess of Wales, were told last night that they would receive about £1 million each from the first £13 million awards from the fund set up in her memory.

Trustees answered criticism that they had taken too long to hand out the £40 million by choosing charities and causes dear to the Princess at the time of her death.

About 100 more charities will be told today that they are to receive smaller awards. The majority reflect the Princess's interest in children and vulnerable youngsters.

Last night's awards went to the "Big Six" — projects involving children, the homeless, leprosy and Aids. Many are expected to bear her name as a permanent memorial.

A special award will be made to the victims of landmines, which was of particular concern to the Princess, but the trustees have yet to agree how best the money should be spent. No one charity will benefit and instead a special conference will be held involving agencies working with victims to decide which local projects which should receive awards. A spokesman said: "The Princess was very keen in the area of rehabilitation,

## TICKET RUSH

Ten million scratch-cards bearing the signature of Diana, Princess of Wales, went on sale yesterday to "tremendous demand". The cards, designed by the pools firm Littlewoods, will raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Each card, with the signature over a pink rose, will raise 20 pence for the fund, with Littlewoods matching the top prize of £25,000 with a similar donation. The scheme was launched at a newsagents in Greenford, West London, where 100 tickets were sold within four hours.

employment training and help to families of victims and we would wish to emphasise this in the awards we will give."

Trustees said last night that future awards, the next of which will be announced this summer, will encompass the same themes.

Charities such as Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Centrepoin, the English National Ballet, Royal Marsden Hospital, National Aids Trust and the Leprosy

Mission were told exactly how much they were getting yesterday.

There was initial confusion last night when the nine trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, who include the Princess's sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, appeared unsure about when and how the awards should be announced. There was also a dispute about the decision to give the announcement to a television network on an exclusive basis.

One of the major recipients is the Great Ormond Street hospital, where the money will fund a radical new project for child care in a specially designed community centre in London.

The Centrepoin charity for the homeless is to get funding for an outreach project near King's Cross in London. The Princess, who was a regular visitor to Centrepoin's projects, had agreed shortly before her death to open the sheltered accommodation for young homeless. She was also planning to take her sons to visit the refuge.

A grant will be given to the English National Ballet to help fund three areas of particular concern to the Princess. These include the creation of new productions for young performers, helping disadvantaged groups of schoolchildren to visit the ballet, and assisting in the professional welfare of dancers.

Over 4000 charities applied to the fund from all over the world.

The trustees yesterday defended the seven-month wait for the first payouts saying they had to agree specific rules about which charities should benefit. "What took so long was to agree the rules of how this fund should work," a spokesman said.

Fund trustees have not decided how quickly they will disperse all the money it has so far received. The sales of the tribute album recorded in her memory could eventually bring in £100 million and the income from sales of sanctioned memorabilia and souvenirs is described as "incalculable".



Ffion Hague attended a traditional day for monarchy at Westminster Abbey with her husband, the Tory leader

## Blair backs reforms as Queen enjoys a day full of tradition

By ANDREW PIERCE  
AND ALAN HAMILTON

TONY BLAIR yesterday signalled his support for the modernisers at Buckingham Palace, led by the Prince of Wales, who are pressing for sweeping changes to the monarchy.

The rapidly evolving proposals to improve the image of the Royal Family is expected to dominate discussions at the Prime Minister's regular audience with the Queen today. Downing Street threw its weight behind the pace of change which has caused a deepening rift with the palace old guard, apparently led by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Buckingham Palace dismissed reports that the Duke of Edinburgh was opposed to changes and said stories of a new wave of reforms were "mere speculation".

The Queen, meanwhile, took a thoroughly traditional view of her monarchical role yesterday when she stepped into the forecourt of Buckingham Palace to hand a gold and silver baton to a Malaysian relay runner for the first leg of its journey to



Tony Blair is backing plans to modernise the Palace

this year's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Teams of runners will carry the baton to Malaysia, where its arrival in September will signal the start of the 16th games. The Queen, who also attended the annual Commonwealth Day service in Westminster Abbey, along with Tony and Cherie Blair and William and Prince Harry, will close the games during a visit to Malaysia and Brunei in the autumn.

The forecourt ceremony

was a brief interlude of order and familiarity during a period of fevered speculation over the future of monarchy. As the Queen met games officials, and British and Malaysian athletes who will compete in the most important world games after the Olympics, it was noticeable that the great majority of men bowed as they shook hands, and all the women curtsied, with the exception of the track-suited Kelly Holmes, the England run-

ner, who declined to bend a reverential knee.

Bowing and curtsying are now officially out, according to a letter sent by the Palace to Lord Lieutenants throughout Britain two weeks ago. The Queen has never insisted on it, but as part of a major review of royal style in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Palace officials thought it prudent to issue a reminder.

After a weekend of intense speculation following last month's meeting of the Way Ahead Group, the Royal Family's strategic planning committee, it became clear yesterday that the Queen is in favour of a review of almost all aspects of the running of her Household, in the hope of pre-empting government pressure to slim down the whole apparatus of monarchy. Palace officials are aware that, when serious discussions on the future of the Civil List begin with the Treasury next year, there will be strong political pressure for a much leaner monarchy.

Modern monarchy, page 19  
Court, page 20

## Head says politicians betray schools on morality

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A LEADER of independent-school headteachers criticised the morality of top politicians yesterday, for letting down schools which try to promote strong values.

David Crawford appeared to condemn the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, the Conservative leader William Hague and Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, in a speech to the annual conference of the Society of Headteachers and Headmistresses of Independent Schools.

Mr Crawford, chairman of the society and head of Colston's Collegiate School, Bristol, said that schools were being left to take the moral lead, but it was "immensely hypocritical" that "standards tolerated in other walks of life are not tolerated amongst heads or teachers".

"Without naming any politicians, he told the conference at Grantham, Lincolnshire: "It is now accepted that a Cabinet minister can leave his wife, take up with another woman and expect the taxpayer to foot the bill for accompanied visits to other shores." Mr Cook's marriage broke up over his affair with his secretary.

Mr Crawford added: "Co-habitation at party conferences by unmarried members is all right, and ordering £8,000 beds for official apartments is not untoward. Would we retain our jobs as heads if we behaved similarly?"

Mr Hague shared a Blackpool hotel room at last year's party conference with his then fiancée, Ffion Jenkins. Beds costing £8,000 are reportedly included in the refurbishment of the Lord Chancellor's private apartments at the Palace of Westminster.

Mr Crawford asked: "Who is taking the moral lead? Who is setting the example? Is it the Church? Is it the politicians? Is it the Royal Family? Is it the police and judiciary? With the erosion of the nuclear family, it all too often seems to come down to schools and their teachers in isolation. Society and parents should do all in their power to support schools."

## Earl defends move to sell souvenirs

By DANIEL MCGRORY

EARL SPENCER yesterday defended his decision to sell his own souvenirs of his sister to the thousands visiting her grave on his Althorp estate in Northamptonshire.

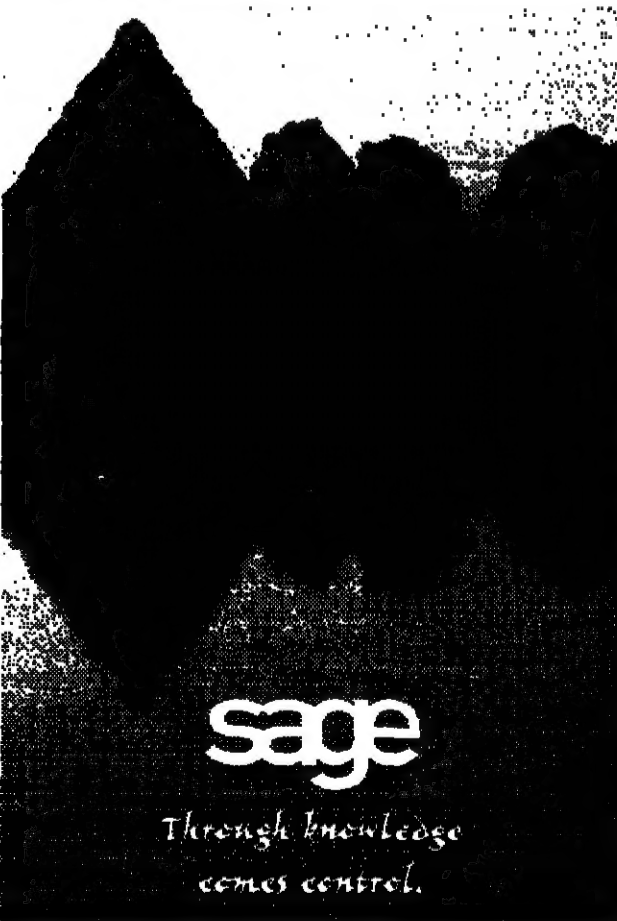
After condemning the burgeoning market in "tacky" memorabilia that has grown up around the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the earl denied last night that he was cashing in on her memory. He has instructed the local firms who are to produce the souvenirs and gifts that none must

feature the Princess's face or name.

Nor will any of the designs carry logos referring to the Queen of Hearts or any other of the Princess's popular nicknames. "Every penny is going to the memorial fund, and better to create a range of memorabilia that reflects her family estate," a spokesman said yesterday.

The logo for the souvenirs, which will include plates, cups, jewellery and key fobs, will feature the Althorp crest.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 10 1998

# Cash-strapped opera goes shopping at M & S

It's arrivederci Armani - Dalya Alberge reports on more than just a change of tune from Covent Garden

A SHOPPING trip to Marks & Spencer brought the Royal Opera House a little closer to becoming the people's opera yesterday. They had wanted their singers to be dressed by Giorgio Armani.

They went to the M & S branch at Marble Arch in search of outfits for nine singers in a revival of a modern-dress version of *Cost Jan turle*. An original production in 1995 had costumes by Armani, but the new cast is smaller and slimmer - like the opera company's finances - and the Italian designer refused to allow them to alter earlier creations.

Armani was reportedly unhappy about Covent Garden reusing costumes designed for specific singers, although he was paid £18,000 for 50 costumes in 1995 and another £18,000 for a new set in 1997, and benefited from publicity for outfits that came straight from two summer collections. His contract stipulates that he has 'complete control over copyright'. And no fashion designer likes to be seen in another season's clothes.

As three singers - Barbara Fritoli, Inger Dam Jensen and Enkelejda Shkosa - toured M & S, the benefits became clear. A grey suit was £120: one bearing an Armani label costs £1,000-plus. The total M & S bill of £1,000 for all nine singers came to the equivalent of a single Armani suit and a fraction of his evening-wear: his beaded evening-dresses cost nearly £6,000.

As the singers disappeared



"Did you find a nice blouse at M & S, dear?"

into the changing-rooms, the atmosphere became rather prickly: there was one version of the Armani saga from the opera's spokeswoman, Judy Grahame, and another from Marja Walters, a freelance consultant employed by Armani and other designers. She was paid by the Royal Opera House to advise on *Cost*. Having partnered them with Mr Armani originally, she agreed to find something to 'complement' the originals.

No, Ms Walters told Ms Grahame, Mr Armani was never asked to do a revival. Anyway, taking in the costumes would not have worked, she stressed.

"What I was told," Ms Grahame replied, "was that Mr Armani was not happy for the costumes to be altered to fit the new singers."

"This is bad," Ms Walters retorted, "really bad. And not correct." She moved away abruptly.

The production's director, Jonathan Miller, said that he went to Armani because he wanted elegant modern costumes to take the opera out of the 18th century, and because it was just round the corner. But it was never intended to be an Armani fashion show, as the critics suggested: "It got out of control, both for Armani and the ROH, until it eventually became 'The Armani production of *Cost*'."

The difference between Armani and M & S, said Lisa Armstrong, fashion features director for *Vogue*, lies "in the cut and the fabric - but from the back of the stalls, I doubt you're going to notice it."

She added: "Armani is famous for understated clothes, so it's not as if you're getting a lot

of embellishment for that money. It's the quite subtle things. You're not going to get that in M & S."

"You cannot say M & S is as good. It would be like saying is a Porsche worth £60,000 when a Mini gets you from A to B. But I don't understand why they went to Armani. It's lovely to wear, understated and quiet. I'm not sure how they fit into the theatre. I've seen his costumes for dancers. That makes sense - the cut and the way they drape."

The new production is at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London from March 17 to 28.

Both Ms Walters and Ms Grahame stressed that everyone would like to work together again on another production. Certainly, the publicity generated by Covent Garden worked wonders for Armani sales. Ms Walters said they were besieged by people who had seen the production and wanted to know where they could buy those outfits. Whether the same will happen with M & S remains to be seen.

Arts, pages 37-39



Cutting their coat according to their cloth: Inger Dam Jensen helping Barbara Fritoli in front of the changing room mirror yesterday



Giorgio Armani: his suits cost £1,000-plus

## Saint Laurent shows how less is more

By Grace Bradberry, style editor

PARIS prêt-à-porter week began yesterday with two more famous French fashion houses facing a foreign invasion.

Marc Jacobs, the New York "grunge" designer, brought his laid-back attitude to the first Louis Vuitton catwalk show, while the Belgian designer Martin Margiela took over at Hermès.

With so many of the capital's citadels now stormed, it is increasingly left to Yves Saint Laurent to fly the tricolore.

Yesterday France's leading couturier - in the midst of celebrating 40 years as a designer - had taken as a battering of his own. His right arm was strapped to his body, having been broken in a fall at the shoulder and elbow.

The collection was his best for several seasons. A floor-length cape in red-felted wool with raw edges looked modern, as did a dress, plain at the front but with revers collars at the back, a pastiche of his famous *le smoking*.

His collection had a relaxed feel - with Jodie

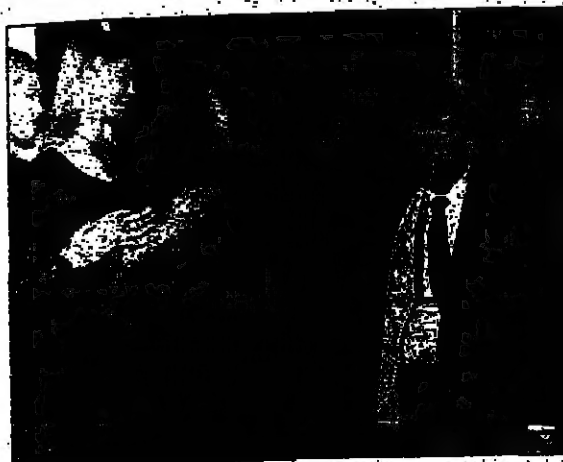
Kidd ending the show in a bell-sleeved dress harking back to the 61-year-old designer's hippie haze past.

But if less looks more, at Saint Laurent, many thought that it looked simply less at Louis Vuitton. Marc Jacobs' debut collection for the leather goods company appeared to draw lukewarm response from the audience.

Jacobs specialises in luxuries but understated clothes that are slightly distressed. True to form, his rubberised cotton coats, which will sell for hundreds of pounds, looked slightly crumpled.

Cashmere sweaters with turn-up hems were sleek with a strong enough signature for customers in search of status symbols. But the silk-stretch shirts were so simple that they can surely attract only those who like their luxury discreet in the extreme.

As for the shoes, they were so laid back they were actually slippers - flat, backless mules not likely to make it onto many London streets in the middle of next winter.



Yves Saint Laurent, with strapped broken arm, is congratulated after his ready-to-wear show.

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## Housing protester who shot at JCB is jailed

By A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who shot at a JCB driver to protect hedgehogs threatened by a new housing development was jailed for seven months yesterday.

Gerard Counts, 38, shot out the window of the JCB and also set fire to the first house to be built, Perth Sheriff Court heard.

When he was arrested, Counts told the police he was acting on behalf of the hedgehogs in the area. He said they had no one to represent them as their homes were destroyed.

He said he was taking a home for a hedgehog by burning down the half-built house at St Madoc's, Perthshire, last April.

Counts had shot at the vehicle being driven by John Turnbull two weeks later because, the court was told, the drone from the construction site had made him "itchy".

Jane Benson, deputy fiscal, said two men were working at the Miller Homes site when they heard a loud bang. "Neither had seen where the shot came from, but they thought it was from the adjacent caravan site."

When police went to Counts' caravan, he told them: "I did it because the noise was doing my head in." The 22 air rifle and ammunition was found under his bed. When questioned about the fire, which caused £7,000 damage, he said: "They have taken away at least two or three homes of hedgehogs which I know about. I thought, I'm going to do something back."

Counts had earlier admitted recklessly discharging an air rifle and was found guilty three weeks ago on the charge of wilful fire-raising.

John Wheatley, the Sheriff, jailed Counts for three months on the fire-raising charge and four months for the shooting.

## BSE inquiry calls for extra time as evidence mounts

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE public inquiry into BSE is to be extended by six months at the request of the presiding judge because of the growing mountain of evidence that his committee will have to scale.

Opening the inquiry in London yesterday, Lord Justice Phillips said that he had decided the original December 31 deadline set by the Government could not be met.

Downing Street immediately granted the extension. Lord Justice Phillips said: "I am not prepared to contemplate a report that is superficial because it has been too rushed, and I do not believe that those who are anxiously looking forward to receiving this report would wish us to sacrifice thoroughness for speed."

The inquiry has already accumulated hundreds of documents and scientific papers relating to "mad cow" disease and received 500 submissions of evidence. Among those called to give written evidence or to appear before the inquiry will be farmers, consumers, representatives of the beef and

food industries and the retail trade and relatives of people who have died of new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

To date 23 people have developed the fatal degenerative brain disease, which is incurable. The new-variant strain differs from the usual form in striking younger people.

Lord Justice Phillips said the main aim of the inquiry was to assess "the adequacy of response" of ministers, government officials and scientists to the emerging evidence about BSE "in the light of contemporary knowledge".

The opening was attended by David and Dorothy Churchill, from Devizes, Wiltshire, whose son, Stephen, died aged 19 on May 21, 1995, the first known victim of new-variant CJD. Mr Churchill, who led the campaign for a public inquiry, said: "We are pleased by the six-month extension because we feared the inquiry might not have enough time to do a proper job."

The first witness to give evidence will be Roger

Tomkins, the father of Clare Tomkins, who contracted new-variant CJD last year despite having been a vegetarian for ten years. He and two vets, Colin Whitaker and David Bee, who examined what are now recognised to have been the first cases of BSE, will appear today.

One of the main tasks of the inquiry will be to examine why the ban on human consumption of potentially infected parts of cattle carcasses was not introduced until four years after the first diagnosis of spongiform encephalopathy in a cow in late 1985.

The inquiry yesterday heard an eloquent appeal for justice from David Body, a solicitor representing the families of new-variant CJD victims, who read out a statement on behalf of the Human BSE Foundation, a body formed by the families last year. The families said they were not seeking scapegoats but wanted to know the individuals responsible for giving advice and making decisions during the period covered by the inquiry, which ends on March 20, 1996, the date when the probable link between BSE and new-variant CJD was first publicly admitted.

Mr Body said a "central concern" was to establish whether officials had ever made a judgment that "the risk of human contamination [from BSE] could be regarded as remote until it happened" and that "some lives might be a price worth paying" to avoid economic damage to the farming industry.



Dorothy and David Churchill, whose son Stephen died of new-variant CJD, arriving for the inquiry

## Watchdog hits stop button on offensive faxes

By LIN JENKINS

A TELEPHONE watchdog has banned a company from sending unsolicited smutty faxes to homes, schools and businesses after receiving hundreds of complaints.

Up to two million faxes, some with the titles "All about sex" and "Poo talk", were sent during the night to promote Fax Data Services. Com-

plaints included a hospice, a charity and several schools. One said that the fax "was worse than receiving an obscene phone call".

Nearly 350 complaints were made to the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, which yesterday said that it had banned the company from operating any premium-rate service for one year. The 11

premium-rate services run by the company, which cost customers £1 a minute, have been cut off.

The directors will also be required to give assurances that they will not operate any premium-rate service that breaches the committee's code of practice.

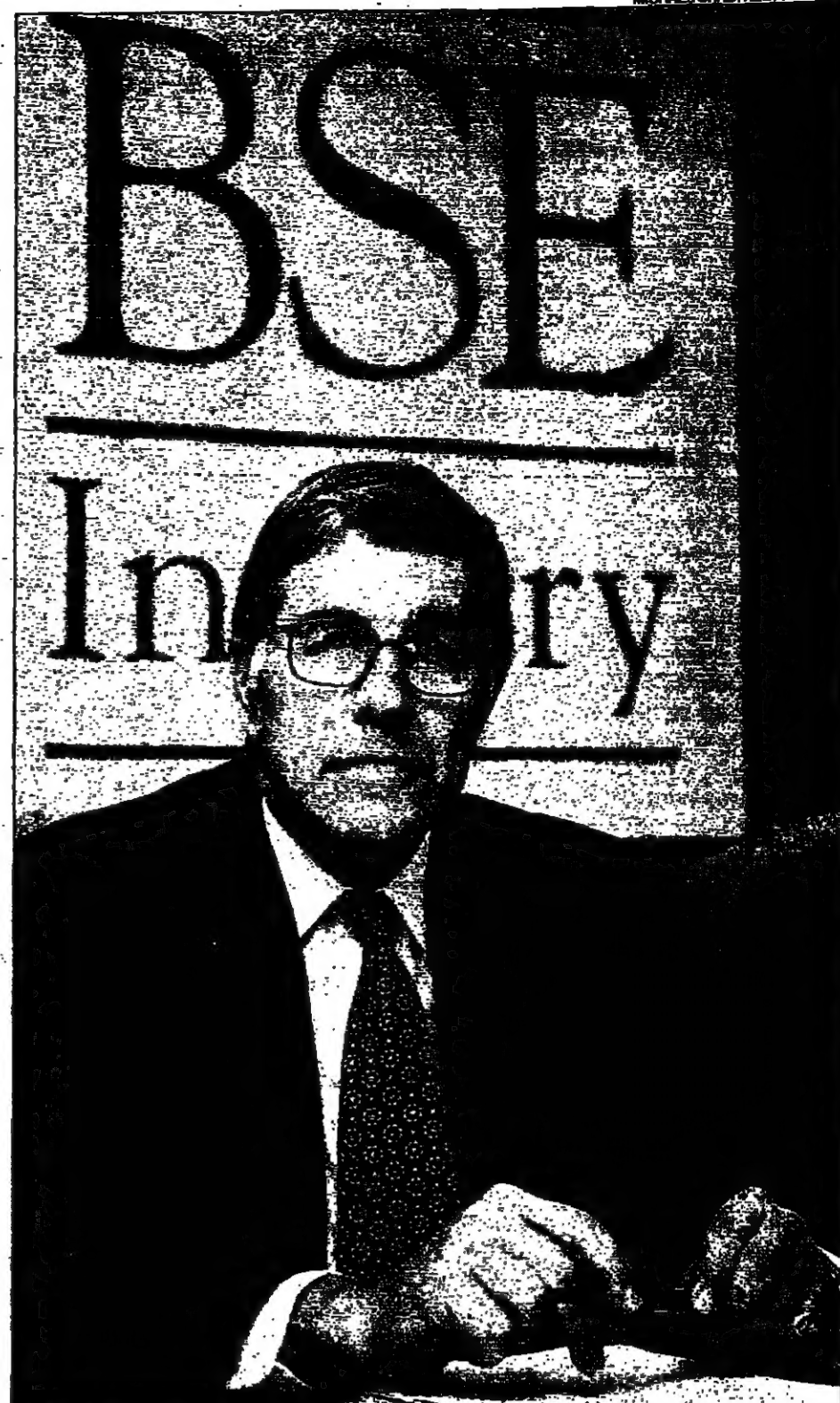
The company, of Wimpole Street, London, had already been fined £1,000 for sending the material, and

had been advised by the committee how to avoid breaching its code of practice. Most of the faxes were advertisements for "Funny Faxes" which the company said could be sent to amuse friends and colleagues.

The committee said the exact number of offensive faxes sent was not clear. The service provider said that two million had been distributed, but also claimed that "total

revenue was just £250, which suggested a surprisingly low take-up rate for the service."

The company was found to have failed to ensure that its faxes did not reach an inappropriate audience and to have sent material likely to "cause grave or widespread offence". Sarah Harrison, director of the committee, said: "We regard the breaches as very serious."



Opening move: Lord Justice Phillips said the inquiry needed an extra six months

### IN BRIEF

#### Stay sober for the soundest slumber

A bedtime whisky, brandy or liqueur is almost certain to prevent the desired effect of a sound night's sleep, researchers say. The National Sleep Foundation, which interviewed 1,000 travellers in hotels around the world, said that, although alcohol caused drowsiness, it disrupted the deeper levels of the sleep cycle.

#### Broker jailed

A violent stockbroker was jailed for a year and told to pay £1,000 compensation at Southwark Crown Court. Jean-Paul Clamant, 45, a judo blackbelt, admitted grievous bodily harm against Kim Kelly, 35, his ex-fiancée.

#### Town's tax rise

Ilfracombe Town Council has raised its council tax precept by £24 per person to cover a £100,000 deficit after it was allegedly misled about its finances by its clerk, Barry Bradshaw. Police and the district auditor are investigating.

#### Wave of interest

The interest created by the film *Titanic* has led to a surge of inquiries about the 1,906-member British Titanic Society. Steve Rigby, the secretary, said his postbag was filled with applications to join or requests for information.

#### Free transfer

Rockwood, a private school in Andover, Hampshire, has offered to provide free education for Lolla Lucas, 15, who left the grant-maintained Castledown School at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, because of bullying.

#### CORRECTION

The architect of the new British Library is Sir Colin St John Wilson: we regret reporting his name incorrectly on March 6.

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# Vodka-drinking driver jailed for killing cyclists

Seven years for alcoholic who ran down three men as he drove with bottle in hand, writes Paul Wilkinson

AN ALCOHOLIC who killed three members of a family as he drove with a bottle of vodka in his hand was jailed for seven years yesterday.

Andrew Armstrong was more than three times over the drink-drive limit when he ran into the three men from behind as they cycled on a country road five days before Christmas last year. Alan Harrison and his brother Bryan died with their brother-in-law, Don Smith. Raymond Walls, Mr Smith's son-in-law, suffered a broken leg and hip.

Armstrong, 36, from Seaton Sluice, Northumberland, admitted three charges of causing death by dangerous driving at Newcastle Crown Court. He was banned from driving for 15 years.

Outside court, Peter Harrison, a brother of two of the victims, said: "The actual time he has to serve in prison will not change what happened. We knew ten years was the maximum he could get, because he never left the scene and he's shown genuine signs of remorse."

"As a family we have formed no opinion of the man, because we do not know him and we have tried to keep it that way. There isn't any anger at the moment, but there may be in time."

"It is not just losing one person, or three separate people. It is the loss of three sections of a big family. It has left a hole in everyone's lives and in everything we do."

Paul Sloan, in the prosecution, said that Bryan Harrison, 38, and his brother Alan, 33, had gone out to ride with Mr Smith, 39, and Mr Walls, 25, near their home in Ryth, Northumberland. They were all wearing reflective clothing and had bright lights.

Armstrong, a former lift engineer, had already drunk almost half a bottle of vodka in his allotment shed when he began to drive his Ford Mondeo. Moments before he struck the riders, he almost ran over a jogger, Mr Sloan said. "The jogger noticed that the accused had a half-bottle of spirits in his hand, which he was holding close to his mouth."

"The cyclists were travelling in single file. They were clearly visible... but the Mondeo ploughed into the back of them without even slowing down or braking."

"The three deceased suffered catastrophic injuries and died instantly. Mr Walls tried to stand up and reached for the damage to the car was consistent with it travelling at 60mph on impact."

A breath test showed 115 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of Armstrong's breath, the legal limit is 35mcg. A vodka bottle missing the cap was recovered from his car.

Armstrong, who has a daughter aged 8, told police that he drank four and a half bottles of vodka a week. He said he had not seen the cyclists until they were on his bonnet. "I should not have driven a car. I just wish I could turn the clock back."

Tim Hewin, mitigating for Armstrong, said: "He is genuinely remorseful, devastated and terrified by what he has inflicted on the families of the victims. He descended into the world of alcoholism in 1994 through the onset of depression. Shortly after that, he lost his parents very quickly and lost all confidence."

He tried to do something about his drinking and seemed to be conquering his addiction, but in the weeks before this happened he had relapsed. He tried to disguise this from his wife and daughter by drinking away from the house."

Judge Christopher Hodson told Armstrong: "Your thoroughly outrageous and irresponsible behaviour has killed three admirable and hard-working men and wrecked the lives of their loved ones and your family too."

"Any sentence passed by me will be seen by the families of the deceased as inadequate and, in many respects, they would be right."



Raymond Walls, above, survived the crash which killed, from top right, Don Smith, Alan and Bryan Harrison



## Policeman four times over limit walks free

A TRAFFIC policeman who turned to drink after his wife left him for a neighbour escaped jail yesterday for driving while nearly four times over the limit.

Desmond Smullen, 39, had to resign from Thames Valley Police last Friday after admitting drink-driving at an earlier hearing. Magistrates at Blewett, Oxfordshire, yesterday imposed a 150-hour community service order.

The off-duty officer had 132 micrograms of alcohol in his breath — the legal limit is 35mcg — after he had crashed his Ford Fiesta into another car early on January 25.

Paul Redpath, in mitigation, said: "Mr Smullen is angry with himself and ashamed of what he has done. His wife of 11 years left him for his next-door neighbour and he's been involved in a bitter divorce. He has lost everything important in his life."

Magistrates told Smullen that he avoided a custodial sentence only because of his excellent pre-sentence reports. He was banned from driving for three years.

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Armstrong: hid drinking from wife and daughter

## New warning over safety of holiday ferries

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH holidaymakers are warned today that their safety may be at risk on ferry trips in the Mediterranean. Lower levels of safety on many popular ferry routes around Italy and Greece could put passengers in danger, according to the magazine *Holiday Which?*

The consumer watchdog says that ferry safety changes, scheduled to be brought in by 2002, must be introduced immediately to ensure that all European ferries meet one standard and passengers are better protected.

Many ferries travelling from British ports do not have to comply with the latest Stockholm Agreement standards until 2002, but the magazine says that is too late. However, it concedes that British ferries are generally of a higher safety standard than those on Mediterranean routes and suffer only minor failings. Half the 38 ferries examined at UK and Baltic

ports were of good standard, the remainder satisfactory.

The magazine says that, despite pressure to improve safety since the *Herald of Free Enterprise* capsized off Zeebrugge in 1987, millions of Britons will travel on ferries this summer that do not meet adequate standards.

The ferries and routes listed as unsatisfactory were the *Sardinia Regina* between Livorno in Italy and Golfo Aranci in Sardinia, and in Greece, the *Lissos* from Piraeus to Chania in Crete, the *Express Apollon* from Piraeus to Paros, and the *Milos Express* from Piraeus to Milos.

"It is unacceptable to have two standards of safety in Europe," Patricia Natus, the editor of *Holiday Which?* said. "Mediterranean countries should be pressured to adopt the Stockholm Agreement standards as soon as possible for the safety of all ferry users."

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# Teletubbies attacked for being too cheerful

World broadcasters have rounded on the BBC's successful export for not showing children enough reality, reports Carol Midgley

THE Teletubbies were under attack from international broadcasters yesterday for being superficial, non-educational, too commercial and altogether too cheerful.

A world summit on children's television, held at Westminster, was told that stories about Tinky Winky, Laa-Laa, Dipsy and Po laughing in the sunshine failed to prepare youngsters for the evils of the real world.

As the programme, which has become one of the BBC's successful exports, was attacked by broadcasters from Europe, Australia, South Africa and America, its creator, Anne Wood, said: "I know people would like to make a wax image of me and stick pins in it, but I would just like to make a small place in the world for a child's right to enjoy themselves."

"It would be a great pity if we didn't allow them to be joyful. When you're very young, you live in an adult world you understand only partially. We try to present a

world from their perspective because, if they're smiling because they're confident and they're confident they're reassured and if they're reassured they will feel stronger in themselves."

However, Ada Hwang, head of pre-school programmes for Norway's public service channel NRK, told the Second World Summit on Television for Children: "Children are invited into an alien-looking world with alien-looking, baby-like characters talking in baby language. What is there for them to grow towards if the characters are a copy of themselves living in a world they will never encounter in their life?"

The programme was made with no British culture "tags" such as language or traffic signs, so that it could be sold easily abroad. "Teletubbies is the most market-orientated children's programme I have ever seen. So much is focused on the wrapping paper and so little on the concept. There is no story, no development, no



Anne Wood, the creator, said: "Allow them joy"

conclusion — only visually and a set of anachronistic rituals. I find the idea of the TV screens in the characters very hard to swallow. The films [shown on the characters' screens] are very poorly made."

All her counterparts in Denmark had refused to buy the programme, which is screened in the America, Portugal, South Africa, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Singapore, Denmark, Israel and Japan, where last year it won an educational prize. This week it was also bought by China and Spain.

Patricia Edgar, of the Australian Children's TV Four

dation, said: "Teletubbies is not about learning and challenges. It is regressive for children who have gone beyond the babbling stage. The defence is always that the children like it, as though this excuses them from any criticism."

Jill McCurdy, from Warner Brothers USA, said she believed the programme did not adequately prepare children for the evil in the real world, as did stories such as the Grimm's fairy tales. "The idea of a baby laughing in the sun projects a false image of the world," she said.

Delegates looked at some of the sensitive subjects which have been covered in international children's programmes, including incest, which was addressed by the Philippines company FCTV. Rene O Villanueva, creative director of the company, said: "In the Philippines, children are exposed to much more danger than television."

Teletubbies is produced by Ragdoll Productions for the BBC. According to BBC research, its repetitive nature helps very young children to learn, presenting a world from the experiences of other children.

Roy Thompson, of BBC Children's Commissioning, said that focus groups of parents, carers, researchers



The targets of tub-thumping: from left, Tinky Winky, Po, Laa-Laa and Dipsy

and professionals had found "extremely positive" results.

"When the parents got together to talk about the programme, they noticed how effective it had been, and it

had not necessarily been until they spoke to other parents that they noticed a difference," he said.

Mr Thompson added that Teletubbies programmes

would continue to be made into the future. "The Teletubbies will be there for many years to come."

Television, page 51

## DNA can point to race and sex of criminals

SAMPLES taken from a crime scene could soon be used to identify the race and sex of the criminal. West Midlands Police said yesterday.

The national DNA database, though never designed for this purpose, could give police a picture of the suspect right at the beginning of an investigation, said Detective Inspector Richard Leary, who has been working with the Forensic Science Service to develop the system.

They have found that the DNA profiles stored on the database correlate with the racial origins of the criminals who have provided them. It has been found that a particular pattern of DNA profile can be common to a racial group. The sex of an individual can also be identified, and in some cases it is possible to identify hair colour, too.

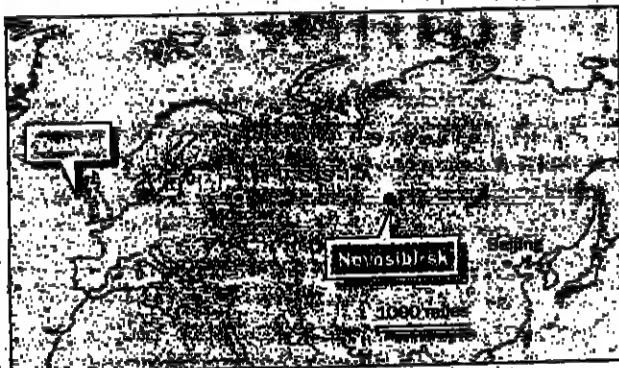
"Samples taken from the scene of a crime can be fed into the database and, by using computer software, we can predict part of the offender's genetic make-up," Mr Leary said.

A DNA profile of a suspect can be matched against profiles taken from convicted criminals and stored in the database. The profiles have no link with any particular gene.

However, the profiles differ significantly by race and gender. "We can identify the sex of a suspect with 99 per cent accuracy," said Mr Leary. "With ethnicity, the success rate depends on the racial group concerned." To test the reliability, he has sent samples from 200 people to a colleague at the Forensic Science Service in Birmingham, asking him to try to identify the race and sex of each one.

Salmon raised by one of Scotland's largest producers, Landcatch, will have their pedigrees recorded in a DNA database. The information is being used to improve the production of salmon by selecting those families which grow fastest, or are least susceptible to disease.

## Heard the one about the Irish pub they flew to Siberia?



By AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A CERTAIN brand of lager is said to refresh the parts others cannot reach. After its latest venture, the same could be said of Guinness.

Seventy thousand pairs of the stuff, together with a complete Irish pub, have been flown from Dublin to distant Siberia so that the locals can celebrate St Patrick's Day next week in the appropriate manner.

The Shamrock — what else? — is modelled on the Victorian pubs that

abound in the Irish capital. It was built by the Guinness-approved Irish Pub Company in Dublin, then dismantled and put on a Russian freighter. The walls, floors and roof are currently being reassembled in Novosibirsk, the Siberian capital with a population of two million potential stout drinkers.

A spokeswoman for Guinness made it clear that the Russians did not have to resemble the pub themselves, in the manner of a furniture store flatpack. "People from the pub company go over and

make it up on site, so you don't have the frustration of finding screws missing at the end," she said.

Since 1992, Guinness has built about 1,600 Irish pubs in 45 countries, including China, although most are in Britain and the Continent. Five styles are offered to interested customers: Dublin Victorian, Irish pub and shop, Irish country cottage, Gaelic pub or Irish brewery. The beer is supplied by Guinness, which will also provide music, recipes and advice on interior design.

Novosibirsk, on the River Ob, was

founded in 1893 as a stop on the Trans-Siberian railway. The Shamrock has been bought by, and will be run by, a Russian company, Septimus Trading. It is situated a mile from a church that marks the geographic centre of Russia.

The spokeswoman for Guinness said: "It really is unique to have a real Irish pub in somewhere as remote as Siberia. The locals won't know what hit them. But one thing is for sure, they will have the time of their lives in this pub on St Patrick's Day next Tuesday."

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# Parties urged to discipline MPs behaving badly

### **Polly Newton on a Commons committee's complaints** **of bad manners and excessive noise during debates**

THE poor behaviour of MPs in the chamber was highlighted yesterday by a Commons committee that is urging the party whips to bring the offenders into line.

In a report the Modernisation Committee says that there is too much rudeness and "unnecessary noise" on both sides. It insists that certain rules of conduct must be obeyed to protect the good name of the House, and says that MPs who flout those rules should be "seriously" admonished by the Speaker.

However, it says that the blame rests more often with large numbers of MPs who talk loudly during other people's contributions to a debate or disrupt proceedings by leaving the chamber at the start of business that does not interest them.

"In these cases it cannot be left to the Speaker alone to uphold acceptable standards of behaviour; the responsibility must be assumed by the parliamentary parties, acting through their chairmen and through the whips. We call upon them to take concerted action without delay to improve standards in all parts of the House."

The committee, which is chaired by Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, says that members entering or leaving the chamber should nod or bow at the Speaker. It points out that Erskine May, the parliamentary "bible", also stipulates that they must not pass between the Speaker and a member who is addressing the House. The report says: "Regrettably these rules are far too often ignored."

In response to recent calls from some new MPs for clapping to be permitted in the chamber, the committee says that there is a danger that such a move would be open to abuse. "[I]t could lead in certain circumstances to orchestration of what would amount to standing ovations with the success or failure of a speech being judged not by its content but by the relative length of the ovation at the end. . . .

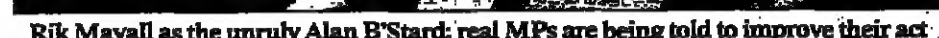
"At the same time, we condemn the growing misuse of the traditional cry of 'hear, hear' and in particular the recent practice of unnecessary noise of this kind from both sides which has routinely accompanied the entrance of the Prime Minister and Leader of

the Opposition before Prime Minister's Questions.

"Such noise serves no useful purpose and is grossly unfair to the Member who is currently trying to ask a question and the Minister who is replying."

Committee members say that any MP who is suspended from the House for misconduct should lose his or her parliamentary salary for the period of exclusion. They hope that such a punishment would deter Members from engineering their suspensions to gain publicity for a particular cause.

The committee recommends abolition of the rule which requires MPs to be "seated and covered"—that is, to wear a hat—if they wish to make a point of order during a vote in the chamber. In practice, the report says, the rule has meant that an opera hat is passed from one end of the chamber to the member concerned. "This inevitably takes some time, during which the member frequently seeks to use some other form of covering such as an order paper. This particular practice has almost certainly brought the House into greater ridicule than almost any other, particularly



As reported in *The Times* in November, the committee is also in favour of rescinding the traditional precedence in Commons debates enjoyed by Privy Counsellors. All former Cabinet ministers are Privy Counsellors so the change

would mean that those now sitting on the back benches, such as Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, would have to wait their turn alongside relative newcomers unless the Speaker believed that they had particular expertise in the subject under discus-

The committee's report will be implemented only if it is accepted by the House.

## Watchdog reviews its working methods

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**THE Commons committee** that investigated the cash-for-questions affair has launched a public review of the way it handles serious complaints against MPs.

The action was prompted by the Standards and Privileges Committee's failure to agree a unanimous report on whether the former Tory minister Neil Hamilton took cash-filled envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

One option being considered by the committee is to employ lawyers to act as professional assessors alongside Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner. Another is to give MPs on the committee the chance to cross-examine witnesses such as Mr Al Fayed who make serious allegations against MPs.

Under the present rules the witness interviews are conducted by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner. The committee reaches its verdict on the basis of his report.

Robert Sheldon, the committee chairman, said: "I do not favour an adversarial system — it would lead to us becoming a court. But I want to consult a wide range of opinion as possible."

Mr Sheldon has opened the review, the first since the self-regulatory system was established, to wider public comment. "Anyone can contribute their view," he said.

## Liddell in line to replace Dewar

BY GILLIAN HARRIS

**HELEN LIDDELL**, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has decided against standing for the Scottish parliament.

Her decision, announced yesterday, means that she is now first in line to become Scotland's first woman Secretary of State when Donald Dewar stands down in May.

Mrs Liddell, 46, is thought to have been persuaded to stay at Westminster by Tony Blair, who is keen to have her in his Cabinet during the first sitting of the Scottish parliament. Mr Dewar announced at the weekend that he would leave his job in May to concentrate on the Scottish election campaign. Mr Blair is expected to hold a Cabinet reshuffle in the same month.

Although Mrs Liddell, who succeeded the late John Smith as MP for Monklands East in 1994, has remained quiet about her ambition to be Scottish Secretary, those close to her say it is a job that she would relish. In 1990 she wrote a book about it — a 331-page political blockbuster, *Elite*, in which the central character, Ann Clarke, rises through the Labour ranks.

## IN PARLIAMENT

**TODAY** in the Commons: Foreign Office questions; debate initiated by Tories on "labour's hidden taxes"; debate opened by Tories on "the Government's damage to pensioners' incomes"; Fossil Fuel Levy Bill, remaining stages; short debate on government policy towards Sudan. In the Lords: Teaching and Higher Education Bill, third reading.

## Let Scottish devolution mean diversity, not uniformity

SCOTLAND never accepted Thatcherism, and it is distinctly ambivalent about Blairism, to judge by the weekend's Scottish Labour conference in Perth. Both Thatcherism and Blairism are seen as distinctly English phenomena, alien to the more collectivist political tradition north of the border. Despite winning a key vote on tuition fees, the leadership was beaten on motions over cuts to lone-parent benefits (in a bitter motion saying the action was "economically inept, morally repugnant, and spiritually bereft"). Trident and the like.

These defeats can be dismissed as part of the usual conference ritual — meaningless gesture politics which do not really reflect the views of ordinary Labour members. And as Donald Dewar pointed out, a clear majority of constituency parties backed the leadership on lone-parent benefits. The defeat was because of union votes. *The Blairites remain firmly in control of the party in Scotland, and have succeeded in altering the way that decisions are taken. Policy forums will take over the role traditionally performed by the annual conference, in line with*

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The rumblings over the weekend emphasise the deep differences in political culture between Scotland and England. Tony Blair sees devolution in limited terms, a grant by London of very tightly defined powers of discretion,

Blairism with a tartan fringe. His advocacy of the "third way" and his rhetoric about changing the role of government are seen as English solutions to an English problem. Labour in Scotland never suffered the defeats that it did in England, so it does not need to be reinvented as "new". The late John Smith never really understood, or forgave, England for not voting like Scotland. Gordon Brown is one of the few politicians who can advocate the "new" Labour message in the language of the Scottish Labour tradition in which he grew up and thrived during the 1970s.

The Government's devolution plans contain an inner ambiguity. In the eyes of some of the Blair inner circle, a different approach cannot be adopted in Edinburgh: the riskier stories about a clash with London. But if all the Government's talk of decentralising power away from London is to mean anything, it must imply diversity rather than a uniform approach throughout the country. Such diversity is a characteristic, indeed a virtue, of the type of federal system which Britain is becoming.

There is no reason why Scotland should not adopt different policies,

and attitudes to the role of government, from the rest of Britain if Scotland's new legislature wants to do so. Members of the Edinburgh parliament would have to take account of the implications of such social and economic policies, and consequent higher levels of taxation, for the willingness of businesses to invest and expand in Scotland. But that is their affair. They should have to face up to the costs, as well as the benefits, of devolution. Scotland is not as 'new' Labour as the rest of Britain, so be it.

**PETER RIDDELL**

**RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS**

The leadership is also keeping a tight grip on the selection of candidates for next year's elections to the Scottish parliament. The decisions of Mr Dewar and Henry McLeish, his deputy, to leave Westminster for Edinburgh reflect the leadership's desire for a smooth transition and no early disputes between the new parlia-

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 10 1998

# German rivals' wives sharpen their fingernails

GERMANY'S political leading ladies are preparing for the first time in the country's postwar history to enter the election fray and flash their newly sharpened, immaculately manicured nails on behalf of their husbands, Helmut Kohl and Gerhard Schröder.

In the conservative corner there is Hannelore Kohl, 65 last Saturday. Once dismissed as the Barbie of the Rhineland — because of her glue-like hairspray, high-collared blouses and withdrawn manner — she has started to give surprisingly combative interviews, revealing herself to be every bit as tough as Helmut. She is not counting on his defeat: "Once you've got Kohl, you've got him for a long time," she says.

The last opportunity for the Christian Democrats to replace Herr Kohl before general elections would be in May — after the European summit in which the membership of European monetary union is supposed to be agreed, and before the Christian Democratic Union's party conference in mid-May. Herr Kohl is unlikely to go voluntarily, and the party probably cannot steel itself to push him out, although opin-



Behind each leading man is a woman determined to claw her way to victory in the election, writes Roger Boyes from Bonn

ion polls point to a disastrous result in September's elections. A Cabinet colleague, addressing foreign correspondents last week, admitted: "In an Americanised election campaign, Kohl would not be our top candidate."

It is precisely Herr Schröder's talent to Americanise the German elections. He

**"Doris Schröder has put her husband on a diet and is dressing him in Armani"**

began early, appearing on television talk shows with his then wife, Hilla. That marriage fell apart after he had an affair with Doris Köpf, a journalist of 33. She is now Doris Schröder, leading lady of Lower Saxony and fourth wife of Herr Schröder. Last Saturday the couple celebrated their five-month-old marriage — and of course Herr Schröder's appointment as of-

ficial contender for the Chancellor — with a party in Hanover. Doris used the occasion to make clear that she will be a key part of her husband's election team. She has started by putting him on a diet and is dressing him in Armani and Hugo Boss; her aim is plainly to make the challenger look younger than his 54 years and

this emphasises that the election is about generational change. Her influence, though, is starting to go well beyond image-moulding. Frau Schröder is helping to build bridges with

Bavaria, her former home, where Catholic voters have to be persuaded that a divorced man can still lead Germany. The Hanover party included Social Democrat politicians and journalists from Bavaria.

The generation gap is more visible between the contenders' wives. To be elected, Herr Schröder has to mimic some aspects of Herr Kohl to reassure voters in the centre. The



Hannelore Kohl, 65, has softened her buttoned-up image; Doris Schröder, 33, highlights the generation gap



two wives are not constrained in the same way. Frau Kohl, an interpreter in French and English, is the daughter of a designer of anti-tank rocket launchers. She was 12 when the war ended, and had to

struggle to survive in the rubble of a village outside Leipzig.

Hannelore Kohl thus shares her husband's European vision, shaped by the misery of war. Herr Kohl won her over

with 2,000 love letters and they have been married 38 years. For years, her public appearances were limited to charity work. Now these trips are interspersed with more politically sensitive meetings,

in which she always sends "best greetings" from her husband. After a visit to a museum in Berlin the other day, she stopped at a building site near the future Chancellery. At the information stand a recording

of her husband flickered on to the screen. "Big Daddy is watching us," she told her companion in English.

Frau Schröder intends to be more intimately involved in the planning of his campaign. There are dangers. When Hilla Schröder started to assert her personal politics too strongly, her husband lost ground in the opinion polls. The Germans, it seemed, did not want a Bill and Hillary Clinton double act.

Herr Schröder managed to turn a messy divorce into electoral advantage. Hilla, he let it be known, refused to serve him sausage at home and so he had to stop on the way to the office. When he drank too much — he says he can down 15 beers without becoming seriously intoxicated — he was forced to sleep on the sofa.

The heart of every old-fashioned German male went out to him. The new Frau Schröder thus has to tread carefully in her campaigning. Quite apart from her politics — she is a pragmatic centrist like her husband — she is determined that he will not lose the carnivore vote.

The menu for her belated wedding party last weekend tells it all: the main dish was duck.

## Britain snubbed as Austria plans early euro talks

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN will be given its first taste of exclusion from the future "Euro-X" council, the club of European Union single currency states, as early as mid-May under plans floated yesterday by France and Austria.

Although the euro is not due to be launched until next January, EU governments want to start meeting to co-ordinate policies soon after the May 2 summit that will choose the states sharing the future currency. The timing is delicate for the Government because it chairs EU business as the holder of the six-month presidency until July 1.

Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, whose Government succeeds Britain, has offered to run the first session of the new council, a body whose existence was fiercely opposed by Tony Blair at the Luxembourg summit last December. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, called yesterday for the first meeting on May 19, before a regular finance ministers' session. He said that the council was not anti-British. But his remarks made clear that France wanted to move quickly to invest the body with real power.

The May summit, to be

chaired by the Prime Minister, is expected to choose 11 states for the first wave of the euro. Britain, Sweden and Denmark are opting out and Greece has failed to pass the entrance tests.

Chairing yesterday's "Eco-fin" council, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, recalled that the EU leaders had promised Mr Blair that non-euro states could attend the euro club whenever matters of EU-wide interest were to be discussed. Britain played down the significance of an early launch.

Britain received complaints yesterday from German and Dutch Finance Ministers who were unhappy at a decision to allow transport ministers to debate the 1991 decision to abolish duty-free sales for travellers inside the EU next year. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has accepted Irish calls for a discussion, despite the opposition of Britain and most other member states to any reversal of the 1991 decision.

Mr Brown, as well as the French and German Finance Ministers, said yesterday that there would be no retreat on the scheme, which is being resisted fiercely by duty-free companies, ferry firms and airlines.

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# Albanians defy Serb order for quick funerals

SERBIAN security forces yesterday threatened to throw the bodies of 51 ethnic Albanians who died in the two-day assault on the village of Prekaz into a pit communal grave unless their funerals were quickly arranged.

The grisly business of clearing the dead from the battlefield confirmed the worst fears of the Red Cross and human rights groups: that women, children and the elderly bore the brunt of the repression of families with links to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The latest delivery of bodies takes the total death toll from an action that has now lasted ten days to 75 — 24 died in the first villages to be attacked, Likoshani and Qirez. Another group of villages is still ringed by the security forces and it is almost certain the final body count will be well over 100.

For the first time in three days, police allowed journalists to the town of Srbica at the heart of the Drenica region and the centre for the operation to eradicate the KLA.

Three police trucks arrived in the town in the early afternoon and deposited 51 bodies at a road maintenance warehouse. One of the Albanians who unloaded the trucks, Sejdi Ahmetaj, said many of the dead were badly burnt.

**Tom Walker**  
in Srbica  
reports on  
the victims  
of repression



and many bodies were without limbs and jaws.

"It seemed that many of them died from cannons and shells. This is just like what happened in Bosnia," he said. The bodies were laid out in a row and covered by sheets. Of the 51, 28 have been recognised — 22 of them from Prekaz's most numerous and powerful family, the Jasharis, long suspected by the Serbian authorities of having KLA links.

"They fought for three

days," said Mr Ahmetaj. "These men were determined to defend their households, and not to see their women raped and have their own throats cut."

Six of the bodies were too badly burnt to be recognised while 13 of the dead were women, 12 children, 15 men and six elderly. Police did not allow journalists access to the warehouse during the afternoon — they said the journey was too dangerous — so the numbers could not be verified.

Balancing the Albanian side of the massacre story with information from the Ministry of the Interior is impossible because the police have no spokesman in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. At the town hall, journalists were told that they would have to send faxes to Belgrade with any questions, and would then be considered by a committee.

The record for an answer is seven days," said one of the town hall functionaries.

Nazif Goxhalli, a doctor at Srbica's crumbling hospital, said the Democratic League of Kosovo was demanding an international post-mortem examination on the bodies from Prekaz. "The police have told us they will throw them in a pit but we must have international witnesses to know how these people died," he said.

He also appealed for deliveries of food and medicines to the area which he claimed was still blockaded by the police.

Both Dr Goxhalli and Mr Ahmetaj said they believed the former ammunition factory at Srbica, the headquarters of the black-uniformed anti-terrorist unit leading the offensives against the KLA, was also being used as a detention centre. They claimed that at least 30 women and children had been kept there, and that those released were too frightened to talk about their experiences.

They advised journalists against driving southwards of Srbica, where they said the roads to Lause and Vojnik, the new targets of the clampdown, was cut by police snip-



Chris Wenner, who was filming the Pristina demonstration for ITN, being helped by Albanian journalists after he was beaten up by Serbs

ers. Most refugees from the area have been flooding into Pec, further to the west. All along the rain-shrouded valleys leading to Srbica, police could be spotted, discernible by the smoke rising from their fires in the scrub-covered hillsides. Yesterday, they wore green and yellow ponchos over their blue uniforms, and their black-uniformed colleagues were not to be seen.

Despite official statements from Belgrade that the Drenica action is almost over and that the KLA has been nearly eradicated, fear still stalks the whole region. Albanians are only just daring to venture out into the open again — many of the men are

still hiding in the woods covering the higher ground — and whole villages lie deserted.

Quite apart from damaging the KLA, the brutal reprisals have altered the social structure of the Prekaz and Likoshani areas, where the leading families in a still feudal society have been wiped out.

In Pristina, more than 100,000 Albanians marched through the streets yesterday in protest at the continued clampdown. The Serbian riot police were nowhere to be seen, a sign that President Milosevic of Yugoslavia is somehow hoping to mollify President Clinton's Balkan en-

voy, Robert Gelbard, when he arrives in Kosovo today.

Chris Wenner, a cameraman for ITN in London, was pummeled by three Serbs after he filmed one of them waving a gun at the Albanian protesters and kissing it during the demonstration. He suffered a fractured cheekbone and was last night in a "stable" condition in hospital.

□ Zagreb: Bujar Bukoshi, the "Prime Minister" in exile of Kosovo, said that independence was his supporters' minimum demand. "Not autonomy — it would be impossible to organise that now," he told *Feral Tribune*, a newspaper in Croatia. (AFP)

## Feminine touch fails to move grammar gurus

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A GRAMMATICAL battle has broken out between the French Prime Minister and the Académie Française, the venerable guardian of the French language, over whether official titles should be "feminised".

The row follows a strongly worded letter to President Chirac from senior academicians, pointing out that women Cabinet ministers have taken to calling themselves "Madame La Ministre" in defiance of strict linguistic orthodoxy.

The word *ministre* is masculine, Maurice Druon, the academy secretary, declared, and thus the correct form is, and always will be, "Madame Le Ministre". The academicians thundered: "Everyone, no matter what their position in society, owes respect to our language which is a fundamental part of our intellectual heritage and our cultural future."

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, waded into this linguistic minefield in support of his women ministers by arguing that French titles should be given a feminine form wherever possible. In a note to the Cabinet, timed to coincide with International Women's Day on Sunday, M. Jospin called on his Government "to feminise the names of professions, functions, ranks or titles when the use of a feminine form is in common usage". The Prime Minister, who has appointed eight women to his Cabinet, noted such examples as *directrice* as the female form of *directeur* (director) and *conseillère* rather than *conseiller* (adviser).

The phrase "common usage" appeared calculated to encourage the conservative academy, and yesterday's counter-attack was swift. "Jospin is like a Pasha surrounded by his harem," declared the writer Jean Dutoit. He demanded: "Who will have a care for grammar these days if not the

Académie Française?" Over the last 3½ centuries the academy has repeatedly intervened to defend and define the rules of the language of Molière, and many see the tendency to give non-gender-specific or female forms to words as a "pernicious" American fashion.

"Ministerial power does not confer the right to alter French grammar," the academicians said. The French words for mayor, president and doctor are always masculine, irrespective of the gender of the person holding the office, and "arbitrary modifications could lead to pernicious and ridiculous abuses", they warned. The academy's critics argue that the academicians, with an average age of 81, are out of touch with a constantly evolving language. In French-speaking regions outside

France, the trend for feminising certain words is well under way. In Quebec, traditionally masculine words such as *auteur* (author), *professeur* (professor) and *écrivain* (writer) have developed female forms: *auteure*, *professeure* and *écrivaine*. But the academy has conceded that while it cannot police the use of the French language worldwide, "it is not for France to give such deviant examples, particularly not members of the Government".

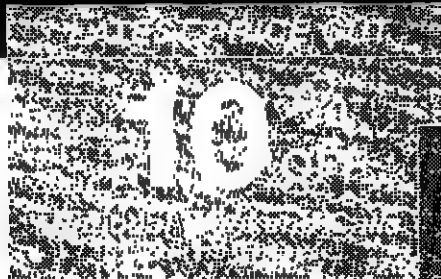
Defiant women Cabinet ministers say they have no intention of reverting to "Madame Le Ministre". Environment Minister Dominique Voynet said almost everyone now uses the feminised form. But the Académie Française is adamant. To bolster its case, the purists pointed out that all three female members of the Académie Française, out of a total of 320, have agreed to call themselves *académiciennes* rather than *académiciens*.

Leading article, page 19



Bodies of ethnic Albanians, killed in the Serb attack on Kosovo rebels, piled up in Srbica

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## Danes set for big poll swing to Right

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK votes tomorrow in what promises to be a cliffhanger general election, with opinion pollsters predicting a solid swing to the Right and a possible change of government.

A Gallup survey in the daily *Berlingske Tidende* showed the opposition centre-right block, led by the Liberals and Conservatives, seemingly poised to oust the centre-left coalition of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Social Democrat Prime Minister, with a combined 51 per cent of the vote and 92 seats in the 179-member parliament.

The Social Democrats, their Radical Liberal coalition partners and left-wing groupings supporting the Government are predicted to win 47 per cent of the vote and 83 seats overall. The Right can also count on two or three of the four seats of the North Atlantic provinces of Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

The election, which comes six months before the end of the Government's term, takes place after a lacklustre three-week campaign focusing on domestic issues: maintaining and improving the womb-to-tomb welfare state; protecting the environment; further reducing unemployment, now at about 7 per cent compared with more than 12 per cent when Mr Rasmussen came to power; and maintaining the economic upturn.

Immigration and refugees have been the hottest topics, reflecting increasing xenophobia, with the small, far-right nationalist Danish People's Party campaigning on an anti-immigration platform and set to win 8 per cent of the vote, according to the polls. Of Denmark's 5.2 million population, 4.7 per cent are foreign citizens.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the opposition leader, has pledged to scrap Denmark's opt-outs from the Maastricht treaty, including its exemption from participating in Europe's single currency, if he becomes Prime Minister.

## £300m paid out in French arms scandal, says Dumas

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Dumas questioned

ROLAND DUMAS, the Socialist former Foreign Minister, struggling to extricate himself from a corruption scandal, denied yesterday receiving commission from the sale of French arms to Taiwan in 1991, but claimed that about £300 million had been paid to others as part of the deal.

M. Dumas — a close ally of François Mitterrand, the late President — who is now head of the country's highest court, will be questioned by magistrates next week and is likely to be formally investigated on fraud and corruption charges, according to news reports in France.

While proclaiming his innocence and refusing to resign, M. Dumas said that the amount of cash involved in the shadowy deal was ten times higher than previously reported and claimed that he could reveal the names of those who took the money.

"I can only say that the commission, paid with the au-

thorisation of the Finance Ministry and presidency, was far larger than we have heard," M. Dumas told *Le Figaro* yesterday. "The commission was about \$500 million. The names of those who received it, which it is not my intention to reveal here, are mentioned in a document linked to this case."

M. Dumas' oblique threat to expose other senior members of the former Mitterrand Government comes at a potentially

damaging moment for the Socialist Party before next Sunday's regional elections.

The decision to sell 20 Lafayette-class frigates to Taiwan, a reversal of the previous policy of mollifying China, was taken by President Mitterrand and the then Prime Minister, M. Dumas, said Edith Cresson, was Prime Minister when the deal was announced in September 1991. "I had to go along with the decision. I then had to do my best to arrange things on a diplomatic level with Beijing," M. Dumas, 75, said.

M. Dumas' home and offices were searched by investigators in January and Eva Joly, a magistrate, has summoned him for further questioning on March 18.

□ Authors must pay: A French court yesterday ordered two authors and their publisher to pay about £100,000 jointly in damages and £90,000 in fines for implicating François Léonard, a former Defence Minister, in the murder of Yann Pina, an anti-corruption crusader. (AP)

## VOTE NO...

...to the proposed Conservative Party constitution.

- It does not give Party members a direct vote for any member of the governing body except the Leader, but a vote in Leadership elections is not guaranteed.
- None of the promises made by William Hague about increased member involvement is reflected in the constitution.
- All Party activities will in future be supervised by Conservative Central Office — down to constituency level.
- The Party Officers in direct control of Central Office will not be elected and will not be accountable to the new governing body.
- A small number of MPs will be able to block any change to certain parts of the constitution, including changes to the governing body.

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This advertisement has been placed by the Charter Movement, COPOV and others, for a democratic Conservative Party. Further information may be obtained from 21 Inglede Close, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1QU, or [www.tory-democracy.org](http://www.tory-democracy.org) or the Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, March 27th, 8.30pm (fringe meeting at Central Council — all party members welcome).



# UN praises Iraqi co-operation as inspectors complete first checks



Annan: negotiated deal

By JAMES BOND  
IN NEW YORK  
AND MICHAEL EVANS,  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

UNITED NATIONS arms inspectors have successfully completed the first check of sensitive sites in Iraq since the recent crisis and yesterday praised Baghdad's "terrible spirit of co-operation".

An Unscorm team led by Scott Ritter, the former US Marine who has been denounced by Iraq as an American spy, yesterday completed visits to several sites linked to the country's intelligence services from which the team had been barred in January.

A senior UN official said the co-operation shown by Iraq provided grounds for optimism that Baghdad would abide by the weapons inspection agreement it negotiated with Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General.

The UN published yesterday detailed procedures for the inspections

of the eight presidential palaces. At least two diplomats, drawn from a pool of officials stationed in Baghdad and nearby countries, will accompany each inspection team. The diplomatic escorts will not have power to stop an inspection but will be able to make a public report on the inspectors' conduct.

Although Britain and the United States are among the countries invited to supply diplomats, it is unlikely they will be used because neither country has diplomatic representation in Baghdad. A Foreign Office official in London said the arrival of British diplomats in Iraq

would alert Iraqi authorities to impending palace inspections.

The UN has told Iraq that it plans to mount "baseline" inspections of all eight presidential sites, totalling 1,058 buildings, in about two weeks. Further inspections will be held as needed.

Jayantha Dhanapala, the Sri Lankan commissioner responsible for assembling the groups of diplomats and weapons inspectors is due to arrive in Baghdad this week to prepare for the inspections and will remain in the country until the first checks of presidential sites have been completed. Richard Butler, the

chief UN weapons inspector, also plans to travel to Iraq this month.

The detailed programme for inspecting Saddam's palaces was sent to the Security Council for approval yesterday.

Mr Annan also said that he would consider Moscow's proposal for a Russian to be a new deputy head of the special inspection programme for the palaces. Mr Butler has one deputy, Charles Duelfer, who is an American.

British officials said that provided Russia was not trying to oust the present deputy head, Britain was happy for Russia to take a more

prominent role in Unscorm. In London, Foreign Office officials expressed satisfaction with the way Mr Annan had handled the details over the palace inspections. After Mr Annan returned from Baghdad there were concerns that the wording of the agreement signed with Iraq, in particular the reference to "special procedures" for inspecting the presidential sites, might create loopholes for the Iraqis.

However, Mr Annan has made clear since returning to New York that he intended to resolve the procedural details solely with Mr Butler.

## Clinton facing writ over denial of 30-year affair

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AN ANGRY woman threatened to sue President Clinton yesterday on extraordinary grounds — that he denies having an affair with her.

Dolly Kyle Browning, who claims Mr Clinton called her "My Pretty Girl" and that they were lovers off and on for three decades, said the denial was defamatory and damaging to sales of her novel, a thinly disguised account of the alleged affair.

This incongruous twist to Mr Clinton's woman troubles stems from sharply conflicting accounts over what was said when they met at their high school's 30-year reunion in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1994.

Everyone who was there remembers that the pair sat on a couple of stacking chairs in a corner of the ballroom, talking intensely for 45 minutes.

In Mr Clinton's version, given during his leaked deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, Mrs Browning launched into a "jealous tirade" about how unhappy she was that they had never slept together, and threatened to write a book claiming they had.

His testimony continued that during the conversation he emphasised to her that their relationship had not been sexual. She said she had loved him for years and that

she needed money as much as Jennifer Flowers, who had sold the story of her affair with Mr Clinton to a newspaper.

Alarmed by her tone, Mr Clinton said he called over an aide as a witness. Back in Washington, he wrote two pages of longhand notes about the confrontation and checked them with the aide before storing them in a folder under his desk.

Mrs Browning, a Dallas property lawyer, said yesterday: "He's lying and has committed perjury. What kind of bizarre behaviour would it be for a woman to go into a jealous tirade in front of 300 people because a man had not slept with her?"

In her own deposition in the Jones case, Mrs Browning said a Secret Service agent became alarmed when she swore at the President in the ballroom, but Mr Clinton waved the agent away. At no time, she said, was an aide listening to the conversation. Mrs Browning has said that Mr Clinton asked her if she would like to come to Washington and start again as before.

Mrs Browning declared: "I'm going to talk to a lawyer about this because I'm considering a lawsuit. If this guy is saying we've never had a relationship, that's certainly damaging sales of the book."

He's calling me a crazed liar." In the meantime, she said, she has given a new sworn statement to Mrs Jones's lawyers rebutting President Clinton's deposition.

Her version of the reunion is the prologue to *Purposes of the Heart*, which she and her third husband have published privately and are selling at [www.deardolly.com](http://www.deardolly.com) over the Internet.

An author's note says the book is loosely based on a true story but that names have been changed to protect the guilty.

This week Mr Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie, is due to be recalled before the grand jury investigating whether he had an affair with Monica Lewinsky and pressured her to lie about it.

In the six weeks since Mrs Currie last testified, contradictions have emerged about whether it was Mr Clinton or Mrs Currie who initiated the plan for Vernon Jordan, the President's advisor, to help Ms Lewinsky find a job at the time when lawyers in the Jones case were trying to question her.

Mr Clinton's deposition apparently implied that Mrs Currie acted on her own, although Mr Jordan has said that he kept the President informed about all the help he gave to Ms Lewinsky.



Dolly Kyle Browning said the President's denial was defamatory and damaging to sales of her novel, which is a thinly disguised account of their alleged affair

## Extremists try to stop prize for Amos Oz

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMOS OZ, the Israeli novelist, yesterday became the target for ultra-nationalists determined to prevent his receiving the Israel Prize for literature because of his past criticism of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank.

The row erupted as Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, rejected the suggestion made in London by Tony Blair that the building of settlements should be halted in an attempt to rescue the peace process.

Zvi Hendel, a settlers' leader and Knesset deputy for the influential National Religious Party — a key backer of Mr Netanyahu's ruling Likud coalition — said that Mr Oz, well known as a peace campaigner, should be denied the prize because of a 1989 newspaper column in which he called Jewish extremists a "Jewish Hezbollah", a reference to the Iranian-backed militants fighting Israeli troops in south Lebanon.

However, gifted an author he is, one who singled out a respectable part of the public, true pioneers... and slanders them... is not fit to receive the Israel Prize," Mr Hendel told Israel radio.

its time, was directed against the most radical of the settlers".

The son of Polish immigrants whose widely admired works include *Black Box*, *A Perfect Peace*, *Don't Call It Night* and *Touch the Water*, *Touch the Wind*, Mr Oz is a complex character who, although he criticised vehemently Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, fought in the Six Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

Yesterday, Moshe Shamir, a fellow novelist noted for his right-wing views, took issue with the campaign to blackball Mr Oz from the country's leading prize. "I disagree with those who want to take away the Israel Prize from Oz since he is receiving the prize for his popular, terrific literary creations and not for his articles," he said.



Oz attacked extremist settlers as "cruel cult"

## Democrat 'hustler' vows to name donors

Washington: Johnny Chung, a Democratic fundraiser who was known around the White House as a "hustler", has agreed to plead guilty and name names in the inquiry into illegal contributions to President Clinton's re-election campaign (see Brodie writes).

His plea bargain is the first

major break for investigators. A key question is whether he can throw any light on allegations that China tried to buy influence with the US Government by pumping overseas cash into the campaign.

Mr Chung, 43, a Taiwanese-American entrepreneur, was appearing in court in Los

Angeles yesterday to admit channelling \$20,000 (\$12,200) in illegal donations to the Clinton campaign.

This was a fraction of his alleged deception. He visited the White House 49 times and donated \$366,000, including a cheque for \$50,000 that he handed directly to Hillary

Clinton's chief of staff. In return, he was immediately allowed to escort five Chinese businessmen to watch President Clinton deliver his weekly radio address and be photographed with him.

All the money was later returned by the Democratic National Committee.

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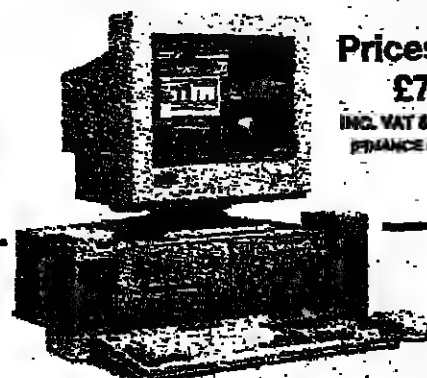
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# Faction chief ends exile with vow to unite Afghanistan

FROM JAMES FERGUSSON IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF, AFGHANISTAN

NOT every Afghan leader wants war, it seems. In his first interview with a Western journalist for two years, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the ousted Prime Minister recently returned from exile in Iran, laid out a blueprint for peace. "A military solution is not the answer," he said. "I propose dialogue, a ceasefire, an interim government leading to proper elections. We need to find an Afghan solution." He was speaking to *The Times* in a heavily fortified compound on the outskirts of the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the focus of resistance against Taleban, the Islamic purist movement which controls the southern two-thirds of Afghanistan. The city has been on a knife-edge since September, when Taleban captured it for the second time in a year. For a second time they were repulsed, at the cost of thousands of lives. Truckloads of heavily armed men

cruise the muddy streets by day, and enforce a strict curfew at night. The tension is perhaps worse than usual, because the leaders of the so-called Northern Alliance, the motley collection of Mujahidin and former Communists ranged against Taleban, have been meeting in Mazar to

**His goals are a ceasefire and an interim Kabul government**

discuss the war. The city is about to become the alliance's official capital. Burhanuddin Rabbani, still the recognised President, is expected to announce a new coalition Cabinet this week, an alternative administration to the Taleban regime in Kandahar and Kabul. "I am here because of repeated invitations," Mr Hekmatyar said. "They wanted me to be a part of the

Rabbani Government, but coalition is not the solution — I seek no role in it. I have not joined the alliance."

Tall and stately, with a black beard and black turban to match, there is no question that Mr Hekmatyar has gravitas. It was the fierce fight for Kabul in 1995 between him and another legendary Mujahidin leader, Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former Defence Minister, which led to the chaos that spawned Taleban. But there is a certain logic in his position.

"Hezb-i-Islami (his party) is the only party that can unite Afghanistan — it is the only national party. We have support in both north and south," he said. "If Hezb-i-Islami were to show partiality, there could never be peace." Critics might point out that this is a way of saying that Hezb-i-Islami is hopelessly split. Many of Mr Hekmatyar's commanders had defected to Mr Massoud's ethnic Tajik



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is ruling out a military solution

Jamiat party. Nevertheless, the party's role in any future settlement is crucial.

His primary goals now, he says, are a ceasefire and the setting-up of an 18-month interim government in Kabul. Negotiations with the alliance for this are continuing. He wants

each to produce a list of "non-partisan" candidates from which the interim government might be drawn. When it was suggested to him that no one in Afghanistan was non-partisan, he replied: "I can think of a hundred" — then declined to name a single one.

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### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Saudi monarch is taken to hospital

Riyadh: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia (below right) has been admitted to hospital suffering from an inflammation of the gall bladder. Such a condition could be caused by a simple infection, but it could also be linked to cancer of the pancreas, medical sources said. They said it could have serious repercussions for a patient in his mid-70s like the King. Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz said last night the King was "doing well" in a conversation with President Assad of Syria, who telephoned to inquire about the monarch's health, news agencies reported. The royal palace called for prayers for his early recovery. King Fahd was admitted to hospital in November 1995 after suffering a stroke and called on his half-brother, the Crown Prince, to run affairs of state for six weeks. The monarch recovered and returned to his duties, although Prince Abdullah, 74, has increasingly played a more prominent role. (AFP)



## Pakistan train blast kills 10

Lahore: Ten people were killed and 40 others injured when a bomb ripped through a train travelling through Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. Rescue workers used saws and blowtorches to free trapped passengers. A second bomb exploded at a courthouse in Sukkur in southern Sindh, injuring eight, including five policemen. No group claimed responsibility for either bombing. (AP)

## Waco gunman surrenders

A siege in Waco, Texas, scene of the storming of the Branch Davidian cult headquarters by the FBI in 1993, ended peacefully when an embittered Vietnam ex-serviceman surrendered after holding off police with a rifle for 14 hours inside a veterans' benefits office (James Bone writes). Jason Leigh, 48, also maintains a website accusing the Government of covering up purported UFO sightings.

## Liz Taylor allowed home



Los Angeles: Elizabeth Taylor, left, was released from hospital, ten days after falling on her 66th birthday. She will be confined to bed in her Bel Air home for several days. Shirie Ann Coburn, a spokeswoman, said: "She's still in a little pain. She will be in bed for a little while." The Oscar-winning actress fell at her home on February 27 and suffered a fracture in her lower back. (AP)

## 30 perish in bus inferno

Lagos: A commuter bus exploded after colliding head-on with a car in Awe Obe village in the northern Nigerian state of Benue killing 30 people, including several children, who were burned alive. Several passengers were carrying petrol. A fuel shortage has prompted many people to travel long distances for supplies. (AP)

## HIV prisoner in suicide bid

Melbourne: An HIV-positive Australian, jailed for having unprotected sex, was on life support after hanging himself on his second day in prison. The Age said. The 52-year-old had admitted to court that he knew his condition made him "lethal" to sexual partners, but yet had unprotected sex with three men. He was jailed for eight years. (Reuters)

## Unhappy with hookahs

Dubai: The smoking of shishas, or hookahs, is to be banned in Dubai cafes after midnight for moral and health reasons, the state-owned Emirates News reported. The hubble-bubbles are served in cafes throughout the United Arab Emirates. (Reuters)

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# The day I conquered my fear of flying

Julia Gorst reveals how a one-day course for nervous passengers helped her to overcome her 'aerophobia'

The day dawned wet and miserable, an accurate reflection of my state of mind. My task was to conquer my fear of flying, which had prevented me from going on a plane for four years. The solution, I hoped, was to attend a course for first-time or nervous passengers at Heathrow airport.

I took food because previous experience of flying told me that the chance of liking anything laid on was minimal. I took a magazine because I knew that in the circumstances I was about to encounter nerves would prevent me from reading any more than the first sentence of one article time after time. And, for moral support, I took my sister.

My family had been warned by those running the course that the days before it would be stressful and full of panic. Apparently I had been associating 'doom, despair and failure' with the day ahead. On the contrary, understanding that the course would culminate in a flight, I took perverse pleasure in knowing that I would be the one person who would refuse to board the aircraft. There would be double satisfaction in this as British Airways boasts a 100 per cent success rate for this course.

On arrival we were welcomed with smiles of reassurance and congratulations for confronting our fears in coming this far. The morning was spent in a conference hall uncomfortably close to the runway. Precisely why we were in this room went unsaid but I expect it was a not-so-subtle attempt to prove how many planes take off and land successfully each day. I wasn't fooled, however: I was well aware that it would be the one plane I had avoided for the past four years that would crash.

As the pilots lectured on all aspects of flying, from mechanics and statistics to safety, they were

informative and almost persuasive but many of us were still unconvinced. In a question-and-answer session even more possible disaster scenarios were raised: "What if a firework goes off near the plane?", or "What if all the engines fail, the pilot gets food poisoning and no one on board can fly a plane?" The response, quickly made, was that "what if" questions were forbidden.

At lunch we were encouraged to socialise and to discuss our fears with fellow aerophobics. My sister briefly left me alone to get a sandwich and I concentrated on my magazine (yes, that first sentence) and my food. Either way I didn't have to speak to a stranger — my second phobia, for which I hope there is a "fear of socialising" course.

When my sister returned, I left her — the older, friendly, more confident, non-aerophobic one — to the same fate. When I reappeared she was chatting to a young, sweet-looking but dull man who spoke of his claustrophobic tendencies. Whether we had asked to know or cared was of no importance to him: so we smiled sympathetically — avoiding any eye contact in case he got the wrong message — until he bored even himself.

After lunch we were introduced to the cabin crew, who would have the daunting task of coping with potentially hysterical passengers. Then came a session with a psychiatrist, who taught us breathing and relaxation exercises. He made us close our eyes to experience the flight in our imagination, claiming this would trick the brain into believing we were on a plane. Maybe it worked for some, but not for me. Anyway, the closing of eyes was our ticket to further relaxation, and we were soon asleep, lulled by the monotonous pattern of the psychiatrist's voice guiding us on a flight. After waking up, we were

driven in coaches to the airport, where several people experienced minor panic attacks.

The rest of us chatted nervously and, seemingly without worry, boarded the British Airways shuttle. I noted, suspiciously, the huge smiles of the pilots and air stewards as we boarded and could not help wondering just why they were grinning — they knew we could not turn back.

As the plane moved towards the runway, my mind was thrown back into reality. The trance that had led me from the hotel to the aircraft subsided, and I realised they had won: I was on a moving plane, albeit one that was travelling at only 5mph. I was, and remain, unsure as to when I was offered the choice of not going on the flight, or when it was pointed out that I was stepping on to the object of my least desire.

After a short delay the shuttle roared down the runway and glided effortlessly into the sky. The flight, a round trip over the South of England, was commented on by the co-pilot, who explained every noise and bump reassuringly. Surprisingly, I wasn't at all frightened, but actually enjoyed the flight and the magnificent evening views of the lights of London and Dover. There were a few tense moments during turbulence, but this had been explained so thoroughly during the day that I knew there was nothing to fear.

A few passengers had slight panic attacks from claustrophobia but otherwise everyone was calm and relaxed. We had a smooth landing, and there was a spontaneous round of applause from the passengers.

On disembarking we all received certificates and the same big smiles as when we boarded. Realising now that these smiles were genuine, from people glad to have helped us, I was able to respond with the same warmth. My fear had been conquered and I would fly again.

I took pleasure in knowing I would refuse to board



Possible disaster scenarios such as "what happens if all the engines fail and the pilot gets food poisoning" were dismissed



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## Help for tobacco addicts

TWENTY-FIVE years ago the tobacco industry spent hundreds of thousands of pounds building a factory to make new smoking material (NSM), a substance impregnated with nicotine that looked and felt vaguely like tobacco but had never been near a plantation and in fact was manufactured in urban Scotland. If smoked regularly from adolescence, NSM lengthened the time it took for a smoker to develop cancer of the lung, so that many — possibly even most — heavy smokers would have been dead before their tumours developed.

The companies were so certain that their product would be welcomed that they made little effort to alert either politicians or doctors to the fact that this was the advance they had been looking for. As it happened, both groups rejected it out of hand on the ground that it was not entirely safe, and declared that the only honest objective was to persuade patients to give up smoking entirely. This seemed an odd decision, for while it was understandable that some smokers spurned NSM, which had little in common with quality tobacco from the American South or southern Africa, it was incomprehensible that lives should have been sacrificed in the search for perfection.

If doctors fail to persuade patients to give up smoking entirely, there is then a danger that they may give up on the patient — compromise is not in their vocabulary.

The European Respiratory Journal recently reported on research from the University of Vienna, and the department of pulmonary medicine in Helsingborg, Sweden, which shows the advantages to patients of reducing the number of cigarettes they smoke, even if they cannot give up completely. The Austrian figures suggest that a 50 per cent reduction in smoking throughout the European Union could save 100,000 lives a year, and a 1 per cent reduction would save 1,000 lives annually.

The problems caused by smoking are dose-dependent — the more people smoke, the more likely they are to suffer from cancer of the lung, bladder and oesophagus.

Smoking is also associated less directly with cancer of the cervix, stomach, liver, anus, vulva and penis, and directly related to circulatory and respiratory diseases such as coronary and peripheral vascular disease, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Most smokers have tried to stop on at least one occasion, and 40 per cent have tried three or four times. But the habit has a physiological and psychological grip on people: they are addicted to the nicotine and dependent on the feel of a cigarette in their hand.

Since only 5 per cent of heavily dependent smokers will be able to give up if they rely on willpower alone, they will need nicotine in some form or other in order to overcome their physiological addiction. Various companies make skin patches that deliver

nicotine at a relatively steady rate through the skin. The best-known of these transdermal patches are Nicorette, made by Pharmacia & Upjohn, Nicotil (Eli Lilly) and Nicotinel (Novartis Consumer).

No smoker's medicine chest should have only patches, straight-forward though they are to use as they employ a simple dosage regime and can be easily worn under clothing.

Nicotine or Nicotinel guns should also be kept in the bathroom cabinet. Such guns, which allow rapid absorption of nicotine into the bloodstream through the lining of the mouth, has been in use for more than 20 years. It comes in different strengths but can be of help only if it is chewed correctly — not continuously like regular gum, but chomped until the maximum

taste is released; the gum should then be parked between the cheek and the teeth. A former smoker with a really strong craving might also need a Nicorette nasal spray — a bottle with a pump device that sprays nicotine into the nose.

Finally, the most cunning device, and the one that all those who want to cut down or quit should have, is the Nicorette Inhalator. This is a tube that looks rather like a cigarette holder but contains a cartridge that is packed with nicotine. When the smoker inhales he or she gets a shot of nicotine, and at the same time the mere handling of the inhalator satisfies the psychological craving developed through years of holding a cigarette.

With the help of one or more of these aids, some of the 69 per cent of Britain's 12 million smokers who want to give up should find that tomorrow, National No Smoking Day, may be less horrendous than they had expected.

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Robert Johnston chilling out: "Walking in a packed Tube in the pouring rain and catching a bus at the other end left my nerves so jangled that I had to down a stiff G&T when I got home"

## On the town, on the cheap

Once I dreamt I had a life. In this dream, rather than endure an endless cycle of working, drinking and sleeping, I would greet each new day with a song in my heart. I would live in the Highlands, read *War and Peace*, take up sketching and treat every living creature I met on my long treks across the moors with the respect it deserves. Then I woke up wondering if Erada made wellies.

In the 1990s, the scene, that every man and his dog, has upped sticks and moved to Skye to learn Gaelic, grow potatoes and get their kicks from the Internet. But what about me? If I took the road to the isles to breed scotties, it would be me who would end up barking. I would sooner open a pizzeria in Putney than weave tweed in Portree.

What I want to do is urban downshift: get in touch with the real me while keeping the shops, the people and the entertainment. I am not alone: this is a growing trend as more and more city dwellers discover that the only way to have the life they aspire to is to stay in the city, but work less hard.

Recently I realised that my stress levels could propel the Astra satellite into orbit and it was time to chill out on the work front. But how could I work less and still afford to live in town? Whatever happened, I would have to pay my mortgage every month so I would have to look for savings in other areas.

So when my latest heart-stopping Visa bill revealed the true cost of hard work, downshifting seemed the obvious solution. It couldn't be too difficult, could it? Just a matter of going out less and saving up those money-off coupons on the sides of washing-powder packets. In fact, the prospect bathed me in a rosy glow of nostalgia. As anyone who has moved to a big city on leaving college will agree, you seemed to have a better time on less

The Nineties are the downshifting decade. But what if you yearn not for a better quality of life, simply a cheaper one in the city? Spendthrift Robert Johnston tries a spot of urban downsizing



money when you first arrived than you do now, despite earning three times as much. I had spent £326.06 — not counting cash — on going out in a month. So that was the obvious place to start. In my fresh-faced graduate days, going out for a drink meant a few pints in the local; lately, it is more likely to mean a couple of glasses of champagne or a cocktail. Having noticed that the pub around the corner was selling Heineken at £1.50 a pint, my first step to sanity was obvious. Rather than spend £14 on two glasses of champagne, I could spend £3 on a couple of pints, a saving of around £100 per month. At this rate not only could I

change my life, I could buy a BMW, too. All I had to do was to persuade friends to meet me in a dodgy pub in Clapham. The next obvious saving was taxis. While I was happy to do the crossword on public transport in the morning, at the end of a long day all I wanted to do was get home, so I caught cabs — cost per month: £200. As I already bought a travel card each week the saving should have been £200, but as the trauma of walking to a packed tube in the pouring rain and catching a bus at the other end left my nerves so jangled I had to down a stiff gin and tonic when I got home, so I am being honest and reducing that to £160. The other great expense

after a hard day's work is food. When I got home the last thing I wanted to do was cook, so it was meals out three times a week, takeaways and Marks & Spencer's best the rest of the time. That set me back £400 per month, so there had to be some fat to trim there. What I needed was a trip down memory lane to Soho's Berwick Street market, where I knew I would find bargains galore. In those heady, immediately-post-student days, my chronically broke flatmate, Sasha, would trawl Berwick Street to pick up produce that wasn't going to make it to the next day — from two dozen avocados to half a whole brie — for a song. The cheese might

have been running down the stairs, but after her guacamole, who cared? Deciding there was no mileage in persimmons, I plumped for a tray of peaches for a pound. Brilliant, I thought, but when I got home I realised the only thing I could think to do with them was make bellinis. So I bought a bottle of champagne, leaving me with a stinking headache, a pile of rotten fruit — and I was £12 down. Undeclared, I turned to the two great friends of the terminally short of cash — carrots and sweetcorn. Whatever you cook, these low-priced pals can bulk it out by at least a quarter. So for £5 I managed

### TOP TIPS

- Forget designer water at £3 a bottle and ask for iced tap water in a jug
- Keep your head by becoming a hair stylist's model
- Scour the small ads for an old bike that nobody will want to nick
- Cultivate media chums for free cinema tickets and review copies of books
- Become a culture vulture by visiting museums during off-peak hours
- Get drunk at home before you go clubbing
- Stay well-read by joining the library where papers are free
- Forget the health club, play tennis in the park
- Reintroduce yourself to your old clothes, they may be back in fashion
- Stay in and play games — but no gambling

to make an ersatz spaghetti bolognese that lasted me four days. Of course, man cannot live by pasta alone, so one day I treated myself to a takeaway cheese and tomato pizza for a fiver. Still, a potential monthly saving of £360, with scruffy thrown in for free.

Actually, I cheated. I rang up every friend who might conceivably owe me dinner and none too subtly called in the debt. I reckoned that if I wasn't too greedy, I could eat out once a week for the next month at least. And by the time the friends ran out, my digestion would be so shot to hell that I wouldn't be able to tell Michel Roux from macaroni cheese — and Michelin-starred cuisine would be wasted on me anyway.

The next consideration was my wardrobe. Over the years it had seemed that whenever I asked someone where they had bought a wonderful leather jacket etc, it was always a charity shop. So off I went to Age Concern. I did find a pristine Hilditch & Key dress shirt for £3.50, but it would have taken many more months of carrots and sweetcorn before I could do up the collar. I decided to wear what I already had until it fell apart. Averaged out over a year, that had to mean a saving of £150 per month.

So that was it, I had planned my urban downshift. And did I feel ready to loosen the shackles of work? No — I might have worked out how to save the equivalent of £770 per month but I felt miserable. I realised that if I couldn't drink mint chocolate martinis, eat in restaurants and shop in Bond Street, then I might as well move to Skye too. The only thing that cheered me up was a glass of champagne in the Met Bar. I later learnt that Madonna had been in that day, but I didn't see her — and I don't suppose she would want to learn Gaelic anyway.

## Overwhelmed by the fax of modern life

Junk faxes are intrusive, irritating and hard to stop, says Magnus Linklater

They slide out of your fax machine at strange hours of the day or night. They offer you mobile telephones, lists of building societies, repossessed houses, car insurers, cheap travel or cut-price alcohol. Sometimes they ask you unpleasant questions such as whether Myra Hindley should be hanged. Or they tell you unfunny jokes and offer to sell you more.

They are intrusive, irritating and each time they arrive, they cost you the price of a sheet of paper. Not only are they hard to stop, they are on the increase.

The junk fax is very big business. Because it comes through your telephone, it is harder to ignore than junk mail: it is there on your desk; it challenges you to discard it. And it is very weird. Just before Christmas I was offered the chance to win all four Test crickets in a competition which challenged two of them. It was an offer I felt able to ignore. The Myra Hindley fax poll was rather different. Couched in the kind of language that would give a reputable pollster nightmares, it asked whether Hindley should be freed, paroled or left "to rot in jail".

Just in case I was in any doubt, a subsequent fax informed me that she and Ian Brady should have been hanged 31 years ago. This was followed by another poll, on hanging itself. To help to form my view, I was told: "Some do-gooders argue that the death penalty is not a deterrent. Well, it sure isn't going to encourage people, is it?" Another poll, on paedophiles, suggested we could "solve the problem permanently by castrating them".

Peter Hetchon of Planet Telecom, which runs these surveys as well as doing marketing work for industry, told me he sent out 500,000 faxes on Hindley and had a response of nearly 9,000 votes. Since calls were charged at £1 a minute, it cost each voter, on average, £2 to take part. The result: 94 per cent, according to Hetchon, thought Hindley should be left "to rot in jail". He sent the result to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

For firms such as Planet Telecom, polls are merely a sideline to the really lucrative work which comes from business. Hetchon now has a database of 2.1 million fax numbers, and reaches about a million people each month with his fax polls for companies testing or selling products. The numbers come from "suppliers" who comb through fax directories, or from companies who turn over their customer lists in return for access to others. "It's like collecting football cards," says Hetchon. "We do swaps."

His collection is about to

increase dramatically. He intends to recruit 50 young people under the Government's back-to-work scheme to collect even more numbers and expand the business. And he is unrepentant about the irritation caused: "What would you rather do? Waste five minutes on the telephone listening to someone trying to sell you double-glazing, or study a fax at your leisure?"

If, nevertheless, you do want to stop them, Planet Telecom will take you off its list, and the company says it will oblige. The trouble is, you would have to contact a dozen other companies as well, some of them using an automatic random dialling system which scrolls through endless numbers until it scores a "hit".

There is a consumer protection agency called the Fax Preference Service. You can call it on 0541 354555 and ask it to shield your number from unwanted faxes. It will add you to its database and circulate your number to companies subscribing to it under the industry's self-regulating process. But Mr Hetchon will have nothing to do with it. "I'm infuriated by these people who want to outlaw us. You don't protect people from telephone surveys, why faxes?"

He complains that the FPS would charge him £1,000 a year for the privilege of editing numbers out of his system. Rather wearily, Tessa Kelly of the FPS says that it is a non-profit organisation simply trying to cover its costs. "The trouble is, Mr Hetchon doesn't understand or subscribe to the idea of self-regulation. He must be aware of the danger of legislation being brought in if the industry can't regulate itself."

Until that happens, it seems that the junk fax in all its horror is here to stay. The machine has just whirled into action again. This time it's from an outfit called Funnyfaxes. Have you heard the one about... no, it's so dreadful I can't bring myself to repeat it.

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# Well saved, Gordon, now for your goal

The Budget should give us better services, says Anatole Kaletsky

What is Labour for? What is the point of a Labour Party which seems to be following most of the policies associated for generations with the Tories? Is there any solid intellectual content behind Tony Blair's Cheshire cat smile? Since May last year, these questions have, in one form or another, been on the mind of everybody interested in politics in Britain. A week from today, when Gordon Brown presents Labour's first fully formed Budget, he will have the best chance to date to put forward a coherent answer.

The Budget, and the numerous detailed social security and public spending reforms that are likely to follow it, are seen explicitly by the Chancellor and his advisers as a watershed. It is the first great opportunity to introduce the world to new Labour's "Third Way" — a political agenda designed to overcome the injustices of laissez faire capitalism without succumbing to the inefficiencies of the socialist nanny state. It is a chance to inject the missing policy content into Tony Blair's project of "modernising" the welfare state.

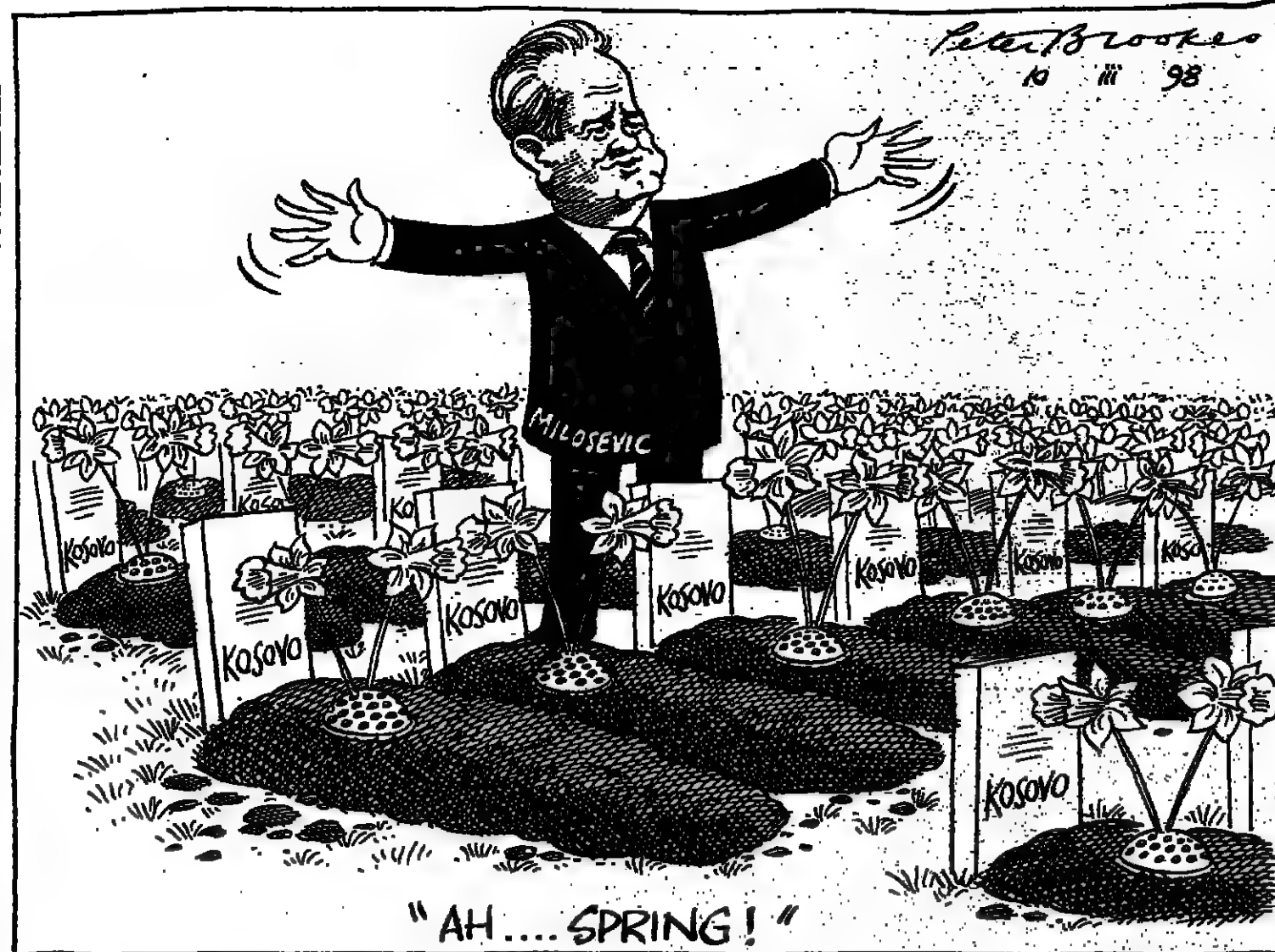
The Chancellor made clear before the general election that Labour's economic strategy would not involve much in the way of income redistribution, the first function of the traditional welfare state. (However, the Budget is almost certain to involve some redistribution, namely a hefty increase in employers' national insurance contributions which, from a strict economic accounting standpoint, is not very different from an increase in the top rate of tax.)

Mr Brown has also stated that the Budget will keep a tight grip on public spending, aiming at public expenditure totals which do not differ greatly from those planned by the Tories. But within these totals, there could be big changes which would justify the Government's claims to be pursuing a new political strategy, far closer to the social democratic ideals of the welfare state's founders than to the laissez faire individualism of the Tories. The great difference between the two parties is that new Labour politicians still deeply believe that education, health and many other public services should continue to be provided by the State and that their financing should be improved with the aim of making private health and education unnecessary and uncompetitive in the long run.

## Private health and education would be redundant

These beliefs may or may not be right, but at least Mr Brown is likely to come up with a broad Budget strategy that will allow them to be tested. The essence of this strategy will be to try to save some of the money that now circulates through the insurance and savings mechanisms administered by the welfare state and redirect this into direct services — especially health and education. Mr Brown and his advisers believe that extra money could be found for education, health and other core public services by identifying cash welfare transfers in the "protective" category which have outlived their usefulness: for example, because certain types of unemployment and sickness insurance can now be provided by private insurance markets. But far larger sums could be made available in the long term by shifting funds from the third category of welfare spending — the retirement pensions which involve no real insurance element and are simply a substitute for private savings.

If this is Mr Brown's long-term strategy, he should begin to outline it now. He must put the emphasis on what he wants to achieve, and not just what he wants to save. He must explain what Labour's new welfare state will do for its citizens and not just what it will stop doing. Whether or not this welfare state will be successful may be an open question. But at least new Labour would have a vision that clearly differs from the social Darwinism of Margaret Thatcher and from the socialist dream of a cradle to grave nanny state.



# Slaves to the work ethic

We should get off the treadmill and reward flexible employment schemes

This Government likes work: not without reason. It is tired after it. Its members rise early and burn the lights late, growing visibly thinner, their eyes glittering with industriousness. Every policy demands a nation of worker-bees: getting off welfare, running mini-enterprises at nine years old, earning while disabled or post-natal, building its own pension fund. One imagines Tony Blair in church, applauding St Paul — "If any would not work, neither should he eat" — but starting to fidget and shred hosiery in frustration when confronted with Martha and Mary, or the lilies of the field (who, if you remember, flatly refused to toil, spin, or invest in private pensions). This will not do. Lilies are off-message. New Labour, new Work Ethic.

But I want more evidence that ministers are really thinking about work and what it is for. This paper yesterday carried a letter from 11 eminent signatories in academia, unions and industry, pointing out the rapid changes in the nature of employment: flexibility, insecurity, outsourcing, downsizing, multi-skilling, homeworking, portfolio careers, all that. The letter criticises the Government's "implicit assumption" that the future labour market will pay out enough to support its ideas on individual self-sufficiency, and calls for a commission on the subject.

I read the letter and cheered: not for a royal commission, God preserve us, but for the raising of what ought to be a big, open, adventurous national debate. The future of paid work affects every other policy: welfare, youth, the family, equality, crime, health, environment, community. Yet while work is undergoing seismic changes, even the most radical politicians still talk about it as if it were 1955. Presumably, they think this is all we need understand.

We have to widen our understanding. I have lately been trawling through reports and predictions from institutions and academics of every hue (if you only have time for one source, try the Royal Society of Arts pamphlets labelled *Redefining Work*). They all agree that the first Industrial Age is nearly over and that "the job-shaped job" — full-time, secure, predictable — is a dinosaur. By 2020 we will speak of work not just as jobs, suppliers not employees, clients not bosses.

Try some facts. Work is shrinking: the average hour is now 25 times

more productive than it was in 1950. The paid working hours of individuals have fallen by more than 40 per cent in this century (take the long view, though, and they have gone up shockingly — anthropologists say that hunter-gatherers spent only 15 hours a week working). In the past five years, only one third of new jobs created was full-time. Of the unemployed who get back into work, only one in five finds a full-time, permanent job. The Henley Centre reckons that by 2010 less than half of all jobs will be full-time, and self-employment will have almost doubled.

Work is changing. One in a hundred — more than in coal, steel, and car manufacturing rolled together — is employed to answer the telephone in the vast new call-centres of banks, mail-order companies, helpines and so forth. These, in turn, are starting to disperse workers to their homes with computers and headsets. Ring Directory Inquiries and speak to a woman in a Hebridean croft; order a CD from a television advertisement and your interlocutor is in Arkansas. (The CD is well east of Suez.) Ever more of these workers will be self-employed "vendor employees", as surely as the wandering shepherds who stood with their crooks at hiring-fairs in Thomas Hardy's day.

Divisions widen. Fewer and fewer high-paid, high-stressed people manage this diaspora of workers: already one in eight managers works more than 60 hours a week, and 40 per cent more than 50 hours, not counting commuting. They frantically spend money trying to disperse the stress. While leisure time grew by only 2 per cent in the Tory years, leisure spending grew by 150 per cent: think of all those rushed exotic holidays, those executive train-cabboards full of unperished squash kit. Meanwhile, 14 per cent of couples are "no-earner families" and the poorest 10 per cent of women part-timers get steadily poorer. Allowing for inflation, if such a woman earned £50 in 1979, she now gets £48 for the same work.

We spend man-hours in wild, weird ways, reflecting the costs of rush, traffic and broken communities. In the early 1970s only a quarter of seven-year-olds were accompanied to school, now only a tenth are not. We spend nine hundred million hours on school runs: allowing for traffic congestion, this costs about £10 billion. The stress of time-poor lives creates new needs: everybody "timeshifts" now, whether with e-mail, mobile phones or videos and seven-day shopping. Did I mention that the average man sleeps half an hour less than in 1967?

No more figures. The point is that — driven by technology and economic logic — the world of work is changing, and change brings opportunity. Forget royal commissions: ministers should plunge into radical, adventurous, side-ways thinking from first principles.

Should we discourage downsizing by taxing it, or ration working hours by introducing a payroll tax, so that employers are inclined to spread 90 hours of work between three 30-hour workers rather than two 45-hour ones? Beyond that, what is work? What is useful? Should only earning bring respect? Why is it more worthwhile to ring up and pestier people about double-glazing than to look after babies properly, or to keep old relatives out of council care? Should we be more rigorous in assessing the hidden cost of the multi-work society, of dual incomes and limited parental time, fragmented communities and filthy cities?

There are impediments to creative thinking: one is our panic over the work ethic. The Government is terrified that the years of mass unemployment have killed this off. It has some reason. As a young reporter in the 1970s I remember the devastated shame of newly unemployed men, and their fear of being thought shirkers and spongers. But in areas of concentrated, incurable unemployment, much of that shame has worn off (although *The Full Monty* gave us poignant illustration of how much

has not). It would have been intolerably cruel to have kept the stigma alive, but its demise leaves government neurotically determined to deny the act of earning, in case whole tranches of society reject the very idea.

The other problem is women. If you reward family work, community work, voluntary work, and new parents who opt to have no more than a job-and-a-quarter between them, you get accused of pushing women back into the kitchen. It need not be so: with more and more people operating mixed careers as "vendor employees", the companionate marriage could come of age. Both men and women — to the vast benefit of children — could reduce their earning hours while their families are young. Some already do.

We must chuck out the baggage of the first Industrial Age, and build a work ethic based on where we are, and what needs doing. Tax and incentives should not penalise those who lead useful lives with little or no market value. Government should be out there praising not just big exporters and glitzy high achievers, but those who are inventive and flexible about work: companies which offer term-time only contracts, employees who swap job security for flexibility and real lives, low-status workers such as cleaners who band together to offer agile, responsive contract services on their own terms. The Government must at least consider marvellous projects such as a local exchange trading scheme, designed to turn new people into usefulness; it should pilot weird, worrying ideas cribbed off the Website of the Institute for Social Inventions. My current favourite is a local "labour tax" which everyone has to pay, and those on benefits are deemed to pay, but which (if you have time) you can claw back — or draw to supplement your benefit — by doing units of work the community needs.

It does not have to be the way it is: overwork and stress for some, idleness and disaffection for others, children and the weak neglected, the streets dirty and the schools decrepit and useful people laid off in the name of bigger corporate profits which mostly go abroad anyway. There is a great wave of change rolling, and the Government should get up on top of it, and surf.

# Don't lose your cool, Britannia

Douglas Hurd on the perils of Blair's rebranding

It is gracious of *The Times* to make me one of the sponsors of the new Britain ("Tories launched Cool Britannia", March 6), but I am in two minds about accepting the compliment. I need to know more about the chills before I can agree to be with those bringing it to the front. John Lloyd's article on the Government's plan in the same issue (which "reveals a new all-out campaign to rebrand the nation") sounds authentic — and horrible.

Certainly it is wrong for a nation to live shrouded in the past, and it is right to use our energy to present effectively to the world what is new and adventurous in Britain. That is one reason why, as you report, I chose a notable modern design for our new Embassy in Berlin. That is why, after I visited Australia in 1993, we set in hand a special programme there about modern Britain, followed last year by a similar effort in New Zealand. That is why with Chatham House we organised in March 1995 a successful conference, replete with modern talent, on Britain's place in today's world. After the feverish debates on Maastricht, John Major and I were keen to open a serious debate on how we could best use our assets in the wider world. It is right that the Government should carry this forward, inevitable that they should clothe the effort in their new speak — and unsurprising that they should claim to have invented it.

Two words of warning are needed. If the Government tries to appropriate Britain's modern achievements for new Labour, it will make a hash of it. If the discussion becomes party political, every claim will be matched by a criticism. Instead of a chorus there will be a hubbub, and we shall lose our overseas audience. Already we hear voices from the ranks of artists and designers protesting that they are being hijacked for the greater glory of a political party. By contrast we deliberately invited Lord In Cock to speak at our London conference in 1995. Let the spin-doctors swirl about in their own froth if that amuses them; but the Government should not deceive itself. The effective presentation of Britain has to last longer than the Government's present political honeymoon. Talent in a free country wears no party label.

The second warning is against pretending that the past is the enemy of the present. That simply does not work in a country with such a massive and amenable past as ours. In the past two centuries we have touched every corner of the globe, the first country ever to do so. It is no use encouraging our friends and customers to forget the images and traditions which we have made famous. The monarchy, the Houses of Parliament, cathedrals, country houses and village churches, pubs and ancient universities are not to be abandoned out of the consciousness of those with whom we deal. We could not do it even if we tried, and why on earth should we try? Just as this Labour Government stands on the shoulders of the Thatcher-Major achievements, so the British talent of which we are proud is a development, not a repudiation, of the past.

Let me offer two examples. Our analysis in 1995 pinpointed professionalism as one of Britain's main assets — professionalism in many fields, some new like financial services in a global economy, others traditional like the skill of our Armed Forces. I wonder how highly that skill is rated by the fashionable think-tanks that guide the Government. They may be tempted to relegate it to a past which they think irrelevant to the world of compassion, the Internet and the Millennium Dome. But anyone seriously examining what Britain has recently achieved, for example in new countries of southern Africa, would put military professionalism high on the list. In Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and the new South Africa we were chosen to help to make professional armies out of politicised fighters who had spent years killing each other. Worth a pop concert or two — and perhaps more relevant to the needs of a torn continent.

Finally, there's the English language. In our 1995 analysis we naturally identified this as a stupendous asset. In recent years the British Council (and others) have transformed their techniques for turning this asset to good effect for Britain. But a few steps behind language comes literature. English drama, fiction, and poetry did not start on May 1, 1997. Tom Stoppard and Ted Hughes are subtle and splendid, but that is no reason for letting dust gather on William Shakespeare.

In the end mine is not a polemic but a plea — to the Prime Minister, I suppose. Don't let the courtiers persuade you that the image can supersede reality. Don't snatch at a party advantage which will elude you. Don't believe that you promote the present by discarding or apologising for the past. The real richness of this small country is its amazing variety of talent in which past and present intertwine. Let us all help you to encourage and be glad of that variety.

Lord Hurd of Westwell was Foreign Secretary from 1989 to 1995.

# Gagging order

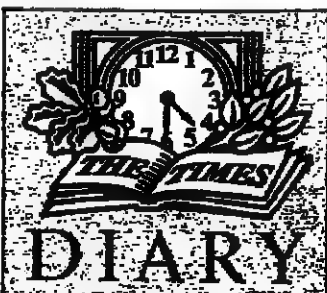
THE godfather of "Cool Britannia" has suggested that he was offered a going in return for ceasing his attacks on Tony Blair. Alan McGee, manager of Oasis and adviser to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, on the music industry, says he was told to "quieten down" by Labour after repeatedly attacking the Welfare to Work scheme. In return, he ventures, it was mooted that he might receive an honour. So cross does McGee claim to be that he has cancelled all meetings with ministers. "Labour are realising I am a big mouth and I'm getting quietly asked to quieten down. They want you to shut up. They're very subtle about it. People get bribed with OBEs, MBEs and Sir Alan McGees. I don't want one. They've got to deal with my criticisms. They can't stop my wages." McGee has been invited to soirées at No 10 where he chatted to Blair and gave £50,000 to Labour for the party's election fund.

But since then the Government has pointed out that budding Liam Gallagher should not draw the dote if they are not seeking a job. Many of McGee's pop star friends, so attuned to the passing noises of fashion, are also gearing up to kill off "Cool Britannia". The *New Musical Express* is to publish a feature headlined "Betrayed. The Labour Government's war on you." Jarvis Cocker, The Verve, The Charlatans, and Cerys of Catatonia (pictured with McGee) attack what the magazine calls the



"hideously reactionary" administration. McGee admits that he might be thrown out of Smith's back force. But he can hit Labour where it hurts. "I'm not giving them any more money," he says. Content, courtesy of the Tories' Alan Duncan: "Gags for gongs."

● **SIR Peregrine Worsthorne**, writer, *buffer* and *one-time holder* of *bracing views on immigration*, is *teaming up with Dariusz Howe*, the *black TV presenter*, to mark the *fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of Caribbean migrants*. The duo



will visit Stowe and Brixton, their *respective old stomping grounds*, for a TV programme. "I was very flattered that Dariusz wanted such an *unlikely companion*," Perry tells me. "I greatly supported Enoch Powell at the time of his *Rivers of Blood* speech but have since changed my views. His prophesy turned out to be untrue, and I now have a black niece."

## Shooting star

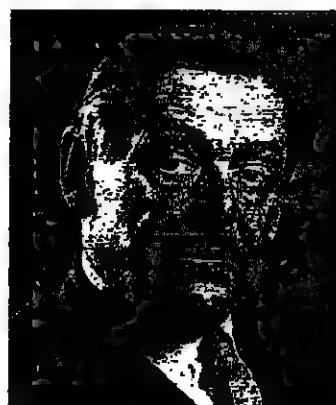
WHO was the first Tommy to bag a German in the war? The question is exercising soldiers as a Military Cross is to be awarded. It was awarded to Brigadier John Alexander Mackenzie, of The Gloucestershire Regiment, in January 1940 for "conspicuous daring and resource" after shooting at a 20-strong German patrol while on

listening duty in the Saar. His division commander had said to him: "You will get the first Jerry. Is that understood?", and newspapers reported it as "the first German casualty inflicted by the British Expeditionary Force". But the Imperial War Museum doubts that Mackenzie drew first blood. "There were nine brigades in that area. And there had been a lot of air activity since late 1939." As long as it was a Nazi who bought it first, I don't suppose it matters.

● **JACK STRAW'S** attempt to uphold family values after a tricky Christmas has caused him a conflict of interest. The Home Secretary was to chair a meeting of the ministerial working group on the family, due to start at 8am, clashing with his school run. Straw, ever the family man, arrived late.

## Better late...

BARONESS Chalker, of Wallasey has been elected an honorary fellow of the college that kicked her out more than 35 years ago. Queen Mary and Westfield College, part of London University apparently, confirms that the former Foreign Office Minister "did not complete" her studies in the early Sixties. A contemporary recounts: "There used to be a 10.30pm curfew at



T. S. Eliot's widow, Valerie, has been touring the world's auction houses to buy the poet's letters, and will not give up until she has them all. Admirers have waited for her latest collection for 1923-28 for nearly a decade. When the first volume appeared in 1988, Valerie — Tom's former secretary, who once sported bright yellow hair — hoped to "publish next year." It is a long process, admits Valerie. "There are still letters out there. When she hears one of two have surfaced, she doggedly goes after them. We are happy to wait."

Westfield, which was then all-girls, and Lynda would roll in a bit later than that. So she was sent down." Very naughty, but the college is contrite: "Well, you have to make amends somehow."

● **HELEN BRINTON**, the Millbank-controlled Labour MP, has performed a serious malfunction. Her Private Members' Bill on car-

free play zones had wide support, but when her time arrived, she sat mute. "No voice was to be heard, therefore I recorded the Bill as not moved," ruled the Deputy Speaker. Friends of the Earth pondered six months of wasted campaigning: "Oh no." (Cue: muffled expletives.)

JASPER GERARD





## THE STRANGE REBIRTH

Liberal Democrats are victims of their own success

Ten years ago, when the Liberal Democrats came into being, they almost died at birth. There was not enough money to pay the staff's wages, their poll ratings barely registered and David Owen's "continuing" SDP threatened to cancel them out. Now the party is closer to power and better represented in the Commons than at any time since the war. Yet there is still a chance that, in another ten years, the Liberal Democrats will have ceased to exist.

If it happens, this will not be a sign of failure but a symptom of success. For the Labour Party under Tony Blair has adopted so many of the Lib Dems' ideas that the smaller partner's status as an independent party is looking unnecessary. The party that stood for decentralisation and environmentalism is seeing its passions adopted. What's left? — or rather, what's left, once Gordon Brown agrees to spend more on health and education, as he probably will?

The personal chemistry between Mr Blair and Paddy Ashdown is impelling the two leaders down a track that may lead to full coalition in the next decade. Already a coalition between the two parties is likely to happen after the first election for a Scottish parliament. Eventually, the Liberal Democrats at Westminster might look like the CDU in Germany — the junior partner to the Christian Democrats which reaches regional parts that the CDU cannot.

Some Lib Dem activists, particularly those fighting old Labour in municipal council chambers, find this idea very difficult to stomach. Like the Bannet Left of the Labour Party, they prefer purity to power. Some also suffer from a form of victim mentality: take away the victimhood and their identity is lost. Yet, if the realignment of the Left, so fervently sought by Liberal leaders for decades, is being

achieved, they cannot cavil that Mr Blair's party is sharing the spoils.

Mr Ashdown can claim much of the credit for bringing his party back from the brink. His bravery in the House of Commons has turned him from being a subject of ridicule to one of increasing respect. He never lost his nerve, even when his party came fourth in the 1997 European elections. But if he wants partnership in power, rather than dissolution, he cannot afford to let up.

At the next election, disaffected ex-Tories who are not yet ready to return to the fold could find it easier to vote Labour than ever before. Having seen Mr Blair govern in a moderate, pro-market way, they will not easily be deterred by scare stories of rampant socialism. The Lib Dems' two recognisable policies, constitutional reform and higher spending on public services, will by then have been put into practice. If they do not do some innovative thinking, they will have little distinctive to offer.

Luckily the solution lies very close to home. The Government's biggest flaw is its authoritarian instinct, a form of cheap activism to which ministers resort when they cannot spend money. The Lib Dems should return to their liberal roots. So, for instance, they should support funding, not because they approve of the sport but because they do not believe in banning pursuits of which they disapprove. Instead they have displayed the opportunism that so annoys their opponents: supporting hunting in their rural seats and opposing it in their urban seats.

Mr Ashdown has had his best moments when he has taken stands that were principled, often unpopular, but right. Supporting British passports for all Hong Kong residents was one such moment. Calling for airstrikes in Bosnia was another. The Lib Dem leader needs a new cause. Protecting the nation's liberties is the noblest of all and the closest to his party's heart.

## MODERNISING MONARCHY

A process of reform requires a framework for change

Sixteen years ago Lord St John of Fawsley wrote in *The Times* that "the monarchy has become our only truly popular institution". The flood of fresh ideas floated by the Way Ahead Group would suggest that Buckingham Palace now feels less convinced of that statement. Through selective attribution, it has been hinted that the Royal Family is considering changes in titles, alterations to the Civil List, a much reduced emphasis on formality in the presence of the monarchy and enhanced public access to palaces. The Government apparently favours, and the Queen is contemplating, changes to the State Opening of Parliament and removing senior royals from a reformed House of Lords.

There are some who will oppose all of this as dangerous. They will assert, echoing Walter Bagehot, that the current court must not "let in daylight upon magic" — that more will be destroyed by embracing the fashion of the moment than can be salvaged. This would not appear an especially helpful or credible position. The monarchy should certainly be a symbol of continuity in a rapidly altering country. That is one of the strongest arguments for its retention. It cannot, though, be oblivious to the change around it. It is only by adaptation that the Crown through the centuries has survived.

That process requires more than a rapid procession of initiatives. It needs structure and substance. There is merit in some of the individual ideas that have emerged. However, there is also broader concern about the principle and purpose behind these efforts. The use of media leaks rather than official announcements has reinforced the sense that these decisions are somewhat *ad hoc* and lack a core theme or philosophy.

There appear to be three different alignments and agendas: those motivated by alarm at the decline in support for the mon-

archy; others specifically concerned for the standing of the Prince of Wales; and then that of the Government, which regards re-modelling of the monarchy as an element of its wider modernisation project. While there may be, at times, a coincidence of interest between them, conflict is also possible. All sides have awarded influence to opinion polls and focus groups in recent months and placed weight on short-term popularity.

There are obviously important issues affecting the Royal Family that require debate. These include primogeniture and the continued exclusion of Roman Catholics, the constitutional relationship between the Crown and other parts of the state and the links between the Royal Family and the Church of England. The one fundamental question that draws all these together concerns the role of the monarchy in the modern era. It remains uncertain what exactly this is. It must be more than charitable endeavours. It would do the Prince of Wales, in particular, little harm openly to outline the options in a set of speeches.

The management of the monarchy has never been a comfortable task. There have been periods of intense uncertainty before. The institution has usually strengthened itself through association with national incidents of vast consequence (such as empire or war) or events concerned with the succession itself. The Royal Family cannot determine such moments but it can prepare for them. This requires, as it has in the past, frank advice from adroit figures of independent authority. A sense of history, proportion and practicality is essential. It may be that this is already the central activity of the Way Ahead Group. The present pattern of press leaks, attention paid to polling, and the priority placed on a director of communications does not give that impression.

## GENDER BENDERS

Correct grammar beats political correctness, even in France

Each of the seven women in the French Government is in future to be addressed as *Madame LA Ministre*. Lionel Jospin has decreed so in the official French *Journal* in order to court International Women's Day. And he is their Prime Minister. But language laughs at legislators. In trying to change their language by government circular, M Jospin and his Jospinettes are taking on an opponent far more slippery than the Anglo-Saxons, or even French farmers. For French grammar recognises no governments other than its own pretty rules.

Ministre, like most titles and descriptions of professions in French, is of the masculine gender. The designation of a doctor, director or mayor is masculine, even when the holder of that post is a woman: *Madame LE médecin*. Linguistic gender has no connexion with sex or "natural" gender. Female sailors and farmers were rare in Ancient Rome. But their occupations are in the feminine gender in Latin, the mother of all the Romance languages. A spoon is masculine (*le Gobelet*), a fork is feminine (*la Fourchette*), and a knife is neuter (*le Couteau*).

Suspicious French feminists have recently published research suggesting that words of the feminine gender describe domestic items such as *une casserole* (a saucepan), while masculine words carry more prestige, like *un livre* (a book). Their evidence: is (*le*) *charabia* (gibberish). Even in languages

such as English, where gender is mercifully vestigial and recalled only in pronouns, countries, ships and vehicles are called "she" as well as "it". Gender is not a matter of feminine stereotypes, for "she" can be used in anger. Guns, tanks and trucks that refuse to work are still cursed as feminine.

This question of French gender is being debated with fit passion. The Académie française calls the Prime Minister's decree "a puerile gesture", and compares him to a pasha being bullied by his harem. Ms Segolene Royal, le ministre in charge of primary school education, replies, with genders removed, that the academicians are a bunch of sexist linguistic shellbacks.

The pressure to feminise masculine genders may come from French Canadians, Belgians and others who care more for political correctness than grammar. English has a similar problem, with chairwomen being addressed absurdly as pieces of furniture. Language does evolve, but not for official circulars. In any gender, why not go the whole *cochon* and have *la Ministresse*? Lawyers addressed as *Maitresse* could give the wrong impression. If the French are starting to find gender odd, then it will fade away, as it has in English. But the academicians are right to retard what they cannot repel and to palliate what they cannot cure. Even French, female masculine ministers have no right (or power) to alter French grammar.

## Public interest in PM's 'leap of faith'

From Sir Richard Storey,  
Chairman of Portsmouth and  
Sunderland Newspapers

Sir, I cannot believe that Members of Parliament who, in our democracy, offer themselves to us as plenipotentiaries can legitimately claim any of their life as private.

Mr Blair personally has much proclaimed his Christianity, and his spokesman should not claim that public probing of the Prime Minister's religious faith is an "intrusion too far" [report, March 5; see also letters, March 7].

Some issues debated by Members of Parliament relate directly to the beliefs of a specific faith: the Act of Supremacy refers to the monarch's own faith; the Church of England is still "established"; in the UK there is a growing number of those with "Eastern faiths"; there are some religious beliefs that are regarded by the public with much suspicion; some people think that some faiths should be restricted, even proscribed.

No Member of Parliament can legitimately claim immunity from the electors' inquisitiveness into their personal faith, which must play so influential a part in their legislative activities on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD STOREY,  
Chairman, Portsmouth and  
Sunderland Newspapers,  
Buckton House,  
39 Abingdon Road, W8 6AH,  
March 6.

From the Chief Press Secretary  
to the Prime Minister

Sir, I found Matthew Parris's article on prime ministers and religion interesting ("Blair's leap of faith", March 6). However, his description of a Labour Party press officer seeking to gain best possible coverage of Tony Blair at prayer creates a false impression. As the Prime Minister sees his faith as an entirely private matter, it is an impression I hope you will allow me to correct.

The only occasions on which the press have attended church with the Blairs are at the traditional service on the Sunday of party conference week (a tradition developed under previous leaders) and on one occasion close to the general election, when a huge press pack turned up at church and had to be marshalled by a press officer so as not to disturb other churchgoers.

He has also, it is true, written an article for *The Sunday Telegraph* about his faith (April 7, 1996). As this led to him being falsely accused of believing that Conservatism and Christianity are incompatible, it is not an exercise he intends to repeat, despite the offers that arrive on a regular basis.

We are also considering whether to suspend the arrangements under which the media, at their request, are allowed access to the pre-conference service.

Yours sincerely,  
ALASTAIR CAMPBELL,  
Chief Press Secretary to the  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street, SW1A 2AA,  
March 6.

From the Reverend Richard Jenkins

Sir, As a Church of England priest I am found, like Mr Blair, in Roman Catholic churches praying, and even attending the celebration of Mass.

Does this mean that I too will convert to Catholicism, or — in all but outward show — have already done so? Or could it be that the Prime Minister, like me, has already been converted to ecumenism?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD JENKINS  
(Assistant Ecclesiastical Officer,  
Diocese of Wakefield),  
St Paul's House, Queen's Drive,  
Barnesley, South Yorkshire S75 2QG.  
richardj@eaf.com  
March 6.

## Balfour's doubts

From Mr Christopher Montgomery

Sir, Matthew Parris, in his run-through of the religious allegiances of recent prime ministers (article, March 6), suggests that Arthur Balfour "was reputed to be an atheist", and in so doing refers to Balfour's book, *A Defence of Philosophic Doubt*.

In as much as we can ever know something as private and profound as another man's religious belief, we can be reasonably sure that Balfour was a convinced Christian.

Barbara Tuchman, in *The Proud Tower* (Macmillan, 1966), corrects those who may have assumed from the title of Balfour's book that he was championing agnosticism.

In fact, by expressing doubt of material reality, the book was paradoxically asserting the right to spiritual faith, a position more explicitly stated in his later book, *The Foundations of Belief*.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER MONTGOMERY,  
106 Horsfield Road,  
London SW1P 2EF.  
March 6.

Letters that are intended  
for publication should carry a  
daytime telephone number. They  
may be sent to a fax number —  
0171-782 3046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9AN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Action needed on Algerian atrocities

From the Director of the UN  
Association of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland and the Chief  
Executive of the Refugee Council

Sir, The appalling and continuing atrocities in Algeria require urgent action by the international community as a follow-up to the European Union ministerial visit to Algiers in January and the UN Secretary-General's earlier offer of his good offices in seeking an end to the violence.

On March 10 the United Nations Commission on Human Rights will begin its meeting in Geneva. It is essential that Algeria should appear on its agenda.

When Lord Avebury questioned Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) in the House of Lords on February 9, he informed her that, in a recent conversation with the Algerian Ambassador, he had discussed the need for the UN special rapporteurs on torture and extra-judicial executions to be invited by his Government to visit Algeria.

The Ambassador replied that this could only be considered if the Commission on Human Rights first adopted a resolution. He said that his Government would go to the commission with a statement, following which it would be possible to discuss the terms

and conditions of such a visit. In fact, this is not correct, since in 1993 his Government invited such a visit, so that there is no need for a resolution. They now appear to be going back on that invitation.

There are many precedents for action being taken by interested parties actually to prevent key issues from ever getting on to the commission's agenda. It would, of course, be infinitely preferable for the rapporteurs to visit Algeria before consideration of the crisis by the commission, so that the latter could consider their reports; but, if that is not possible, then the evidence of other parties can be called for.

What is essential is that the Algerian tragedy should be fully discussed in the commission and we urge our Government and all other sympathetic members of it to do everything possible to ensure that this happens.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM HARPER,  
Director,  
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,  
N. HARDWICK,  
Chief Executive, Refugee Council,  
3 Whitehall Court,  
London SW1A 2EL,  
March 9.

## Chemical mergers

From Mr Edward Collier

Sir, Professor Bryan Reuben usefully notes in his letter (March 3) that "mergers between large pharmaceutical companies are not always successful". How right he is — and he will not be surprised to learn that this is also true of other industries.

Our own analysis shows that a disturbing number of mergers and acquisitions continue to destroy shareholder value rather than create it. In fact, in the 1990s in the US market only a whisker over half of merged companies (52 per cent) have outperformed the average for their industry — regardless of their stated strategic intent. In the 1980s it was even worse, at just over two out of five. Moreover, the larger the deal the worse the track record, with only one in four of the larger deals providing a better than average return to their shareholders.

In this context, perhaps investors in larger companies should be comforted that, at least statistically, their returns have a better than even chance of outperforming the sector average when corporate marriages dissolve at the altar.

The differentiating factor is clearly

not one of strategy but in the management of the process once the ink is dry.

Yours faithfully,  
EDDY COLLIER  
(Partner),  
Mercer Management Consulting,  
1 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7HL,  
edward.collier@mercermc.com  
March 3.

From Mr Caspar Rock

Sir, Professor Reuben fails to mention the true rationale behind the Glaxo Wellcome/SmithKline Beecham merger and what he calls the "notorious" "short-termism" of the City's enthusiasm for such unions. The main driver of these deals is to merge the sales and administration functions and cut costs so that extra cashflow can be reinvested in research and development to improve future prospects. To call the Ciba-Geigy/Sandoz merger unsuccessful at this stage is patently unfair on the new company, Novartis.

Yours faithfully,  
CASPAR ROCK  
(Director), Framlington  
Investment Management,  
155 Bishopsgate, EC2M 3JL,  
caspar.rock@framlington.co.uk  
March 3.

From the Director of  
Youth For Britain

Sir, In our experience there is no shortage of young people willing to volunteer for working overseas. On the contrary there is a huge reservoir of idealism and talent that is largely untapped. The problem that young people experience is finding a placement that exactly matches their circumstances — time available, start date, type and location of voluntary work, etc.

Youth For Britain, established in 1994, has set up a comprehensive computer database of volunteering opportunities for 16 to 25-year-olds. We are able to match volunteers' requirements against those of 750 organisations offering over 250,000 placements annually throughout the UK and worldwide. We are currently aware of projects in 214 countries.

Individual organisations clearly cannot be infinitely flexible. However, it should be possible for potential volunteers to find an appropriate organisation from the huge number that exist — provided that they know of their existence.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER POTTER,  
Director, Youth For Britain,  
Higher Orchard, Sandford Orcas,  
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4RP,  
March 6.

## Help for students

From the Minister of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Your report (March 6) on the effect the Asian economic turmoil is having on many students from South-East Asia was timely.

I have just returned from the region. While there, I announced that the Government has decided to set up a short-term scholarship scheme to help Asian students from the countries most affected by the turmoil.

This will be aimed at students who are due to continue courses in the UK next autumn and new students who have places for the 1998-99 academic year.

We are still working up the details, but our intention is to build on the very generous schemes many British universities have already put in place. We very much hope that the private sector will also contribute.

We value our relationship with Asia. It is vitally important for the UK, but also for the students themselves, that we keep up our educational links with the region.

Yours truly,  
DEREK FATCHETT,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
Whitehall, SW1A 2AH,  
March 6.

## Moon water leads to flights of fancy

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, ITN broadcast many hours of live coverage of American astronauts exploring the Moon's surface during the Apollo 11 to Apollo 17 missions in 1969-72. Alastair Burnet was the presenter and I was the producer.

For one of the moonshots, Dr George Mueller, former head of NASA's manned spacecraft programme, was a commentator in the studio. One evening over dinner, he outlined to us his fantasy of lunar colonisation. He was convinced there was bountiful frozen water there (reports and leading article, March 6). He said that if he could have a budget equivalent to America's GNP for a year, he could make the Moon habitable.

Using nuclear reactors, he would boil off the water locked in the permafrost to build an atmosphere round the Moon.

The Moon could be a wonderful leisure centre. A golfer who can make a 150 yard tee shot on Earth would carry 900 yards on the Moon. A high-jump athlete could clear the equivalent of a suburban bungalow.

The problem, Dr Mueller said, was that the man-made atmosphere, anchored only by one sixth of Earth's gravity, would eventually spin off.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID NICHOLAS  
(Deputy Editor, ITN, 1963-77;  
Editor, 1977-89; Chairman, 1989-91),  
Lodge Stables,  
Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3 0LW,  
March 8.

From Mrs Elizabeth B. Nicholson

Sir, Your leading article, "Water on the Moon", suggests "Civilisation could indeed be transplanted" to the Moon. Would not the greatest demonstration of civilisation on Earth be a global agreement to leave the Moon serene, beautiful and unexploited?

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH B. NICHOLSON,  
50 Gillhurst Road,  
Harborne, Birmingham B17 8PB,  
March 6.

From Mr Quentin Morris

Sir, We are told that there is water on the Moon. How long might it be before some future Lunar Water Authority declares a restriction on its use, due perhaps to the profligacy of "space age" travellers, or even "a period of prolonged drought"?

Yours faithfully,  
QUENTIN R. V. MORRIS,  
110 Eton Rise,  
Eton College Road, NW3 2DD.  
qmorris@rseng.ac.uk  
March 6.

From Mr Kenneth H. Craik

Sir, In light of the discovery of water on the Moon and the many proposals already made for its use, is it too late to organise a lunar water conservation movement?

Yours, etc.  
KENNETH H. CRAIK,  
70 Great Percy Street, WC1X 9QU,  
March 6.

## Eating out

From Mr Nicolas Owen

Sir, Your leading article today, "Voucher for a Princess", is quite right when it says that "the country restaurant is one of winter's treats". How sad it is then that many country restaurants and inns will be driven out of business if the draconian new drink-driving limits are brought in.

Amateur gourmets may be able to drive to the restaurant of their choice, but they will not be able to drink wine with their meal unless they intend to stay the night.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLAS OWEN,  
1 Bruce Grove, Orpington BR6 0HF,  
n.owen@emmail.com  
March 3.

## Dish of the day

From Dr Robin Weller

Sir, At the annual dinner of the Bristol Medio-Legal Society on February 27, 153 members and guests were present. Apart from ten vegetarians, only three people declined to eat the selected main course. This was fillet of beef — British beef.

This may be of interest to others planning menus for formal dinners. They can stop ducking the issue, stop fishing around for alternatives, and stop chickening out of providing what most of us enjoy — beef.

I remain, yours sincerely,  
R. M. WELLER (President),  
Bristol Medio-Legal Society,  
2 Miles Road,  
Clifton, Bristol BS8 2JN,  
March 3.

## Grand fix

From Mr David Milsted

Sir, In view of the result of the Australian Grand Prix (letter, Sport, March 9) the Government should ban Formula One racing. It is bringing smoking into disrepute.

Yours,  
DAVID MILSTED,  
Keston, Newbury,  
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4HZ,  
March 9.







**LEONIE RYSANEK**

about 1930 in Paris, Frankfurt, and Moscow. At that time she was already attached to the Savoyan State Opera and then the Vienna State Opera, both of which developed her as a Strauss singer. It is for Strauss and especially his middle and late operas — *Die ägyptische Helena*, *Frau ohne Schatten* and *Die Liebe der Danae* — for which she will be best remembered in London. First here in 1953 when the Munich company came to Covent Garden in 1953 with a trio of then little-known Strauss works. Rysanek was given the title role in *Danae*, although she was not allowed to sing it on the first night. However, she made a big enough impression in two later performances for the Royal Opera to engage her for a production of *Elektra* the next year and for Sieglide the one after that. She returned as *Elsa in Lohengrin* and

sensed that the Gurkha soldiers of B Company were now grouped around the wreckage of the crashed plane. He saw that I had seen their courage when wounded in battle. Now I had to try to live up to their standards, to show that I was worthy to be one of their officers." Captain Pat Crawford was awarded the George Medal for his cool gallantry in the smouldering wreck and his professional skill, which saved Smith's life.

After recovery from this appalling experience, the one-eyed Brigadier was appointed 1st/2nd Gurkhas in Borneo until the end of confrontation in 1966, and then in Brunei and Hong Kong. Promoted colonel, he served with the Defence Intelligence Staff in London until, to his own and his many friends' delight, he was appointed brigadier commanding the Gurkha recruiting bases in Nepal. For this post he was appointed CBE shortly before he retired from the Army in 1978.

On retirement, he returned to Devon, where his parents had lived before and during the Second World War. He became bursar and then chairman of governors of St John's School, Sidmouth. He was also chairman of Sidmouth Town Council and a president of the local branch of the British Legion. He wrote several books about his beloved Gurkha riflemen and their campaigns post-1939, and served as Colonel of 7th Gurkha Rifles from 1975 to 1982.

He had married, in 1957, Jill Waycott, daughter of Brigadier Jack Waycott, late Royal Air Force. His wife lives with him, together with their two daughters.

[illegible]

By Richard Duce

Violence erupted on the streets of south London last night, when a threat of poll tax unrest seemed to be averted.

Running battles broke out between protesters whose ranks were swollen locally after a crowd of 2,000 people dispersed from outside the town hall in Croydon.

At least 100 protesters were taken to hospital and appeared good natured - were hopeful of avoiding the violence looting seen in Hackney on Thursday.

6.00pm: A crowd of about 300 gathered in Lambeth town hall with chants of: "Bread not the poor" and sweets in suit, snarling at the police.

7.10pm: The crowd bellowed: "Acute Lane is maintaining a low-key presence, do not panic".

7.35pm: Speakers start addressing the crowd as an effigy of Mrs Margaret Thatcher is burnt.

8.20pm: The crowd starts to march to

"Community charge" was the name given to the tax levied per head of population, but it soon became popularly known as the poll tax. Riots and a campaign of non-payment prompted the Government to introduce the council tax in 1993.

restore order. Over the next 30 minutes running skirmishes continued.

Mr MacFlynna Mulligan, aged 19, from Brighton was at the front of the crowd. He said: "We were just out to protest against the poll tax. But it seemed militant and numbers got involved." When they saw the police the police went mad.

Moments earlier, youths had surrounded a police Metro car and initially trapped two officers. According to one witness, two youths jumped on to the bonnet and started kicking the windscreen.

The mob broke up and began thrusting savagely through the smashed windscreen. The two officers were dragged clear from the wreck of the car.

5.55pm: Fresh violence erupts in Brighton High Street between police and demonstrators. Police in riot gear rush the crowds after a line of about 100 youths began to march with bottles and missiles. Dozens of demonstrators flittered down neighbouring streets and clashes spread.

10.50pm: Police charge the demonstrators occupying the steps of the town hall and make the area untenable. The youths are still cowed. At Brighton Hill and police snatch squads make forays into the fragmented crowd. Stones are thrown from near St Matthew's Church. Dozens of police charge into the churchyard and arrest



# Theft in sale of unexpired ticket

**Regina v Marshall  
Regina v Coombes  
Regina v Eren**

Before Lord Justice Mantell, Mrs Justice Ewbank and Judge Martin Stephens QC  
(Judgment March 6)

A person who acquired another's unexpired ticket and sold it on could be guilty of theft.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing appeals by Adrian John Marshall, Robert Peter Coombes and Eren Eren against their convictions in March 1997 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Hardy) on pleas of guilty to theft and attempted theft.

Marshall and Coombes were put on probation for two years and Eren was ordered to serve 40 hours community service.

Section 6 of the Theft Act 1968 provides:

"(1) A person appropriating property belonging to another without meaning the other permanently to lose the thing itself is nevertheless to be regarded as having the intention of permanently depriving the other of it if his intention is to treat the thing as his own to dispose of regardless of the other's rights; and a borrowing or lending of it may amount to so treating it if, but only if, the borrowing or lending is for a

period and in circumstances making it equivalent to an outright taking or disposal."

Mr Nigel Taylor, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Marshall and Coombes; Mr Jonathan D. Simpson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Eren; Mr Roger Smart for the Crown.

**LORD JUSTICE MANTELL**, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the appeal could have implications for all ticket touts and even for ordinary motorists who passed on the benefit of an unexpired parking ticket.

These three appellants had been video-recorded obtaining Underground tickets or Travelcards from members of the public who had passed through the ticket barriers and selling them to potential customers of London Underground.

The appellants accepted that by doing so they each committed a bylaw offence but they were separately indicted for theft to which they pleaded guilty after the judge ruled that all the components of theft were present, save for the question of dishonesty which was a matter for the jury.

On appeal it was argued that on the agreed facts there was no

evidence of an intention permanently to deprive. The judge had taken the view that the provisions of section 6(1) of the Theft Act 1968 covered the position and that the appellants, having considered *R v Fernandez* (1996) 1 Cr App R 175, agreed that by acquiring and reselling the tickets the appellants had an intention to treat the tickets as their own to dispose of regardless of London Underground's rights.

The appellants also argued that the issuing of a ticket was analogous to the drawing of a cheque in that in each instance a chose in action was created which in the first case belonged to the customer and in the second to the payee.

So, by parity of reasoning with that advanced by Lord Goff of Chieveley in *R v Preddy* (1996) AC 815, the property belonged to the customer and not London Underground and there could have been no intention to deprive London Underground of the ticket which would in due course have been returned to the possession of London Underground.

Attractive though the submission appeared at first blush their Lordships did not think that it could possibly be correct.

On the issuing of an Under-

ground ticket a contract was created between London Underground and the purchaser, under which each party had rights and obligations, theoretically enforceable by action.

Therefore it was arguable, their Lordships supposed, that by the transaction each party had acquired a chose in action, represented on the purchaser's side by the right to travel on the Underground system and on London Underground's side by the right to insist that the ticket was used by no one other than the purchaser.

It was that right which was disregarded when the ticket was acquired by the appellants and sold on. But here the charges were in relation to the tickets and Travelcards themselves which were not choses in action.

The fact that the ticket or Travelcard might find its way back into the possession of London Underground, albeit with its usefulness exhausted, was nothing to the point. Section 6(1) prevailed for the reasons given.

The appellants having acknowledged by their pleas that they were acting dishonestly there was no reason to consider the convictions unsafe.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Horseferry Road.

**Cornwall County Care Ltd v Brightman and Others**  
Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr E. Hammond and A. E. Mannes  
(Judgment February 27)

When partly allowing an appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal in a case concerning care workers dismissed following a transfer of an undertaking, the Employment Appeal Tribunal highlighted the problems of the practical application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (SI 1981 No 1794) and was taken on by the transferee on less favourable terms, the dismissal was a nullity and the employee was employed under the terms of the original contract.

The appeal tribunal upheld the industrial tribunal's decision that staff in county council care homes who transferred to a company created by the council but with independent status were unfairly dismissed when the company dismissed them and offered them re-employment on less favourable terms but held that it was unfair to hold that the staff were employed on the terms of their original contracts.

The appellants, Cornwall County Care Ltd, had appealed from a decision of a Tribunal industrial tribunal last April that Mrs L. Brightman and a number of other care workers were unfairly dismissed and that the terms and conditions of their employment prior to the dismissal continued to apply on their re-employment.

Regulation 8 provides: "(1) Where either before or after a relevant transfer, any employee of the transferee or transferee is dismissed, that employee shall be treated... as unfairly dismissed if the dismissal is wholly or partly because of the transfer and the employee is not offered re-employment on terms which are not less favourable than those on which he was employed immediately before the transfer."

Mr Patrick Elias, QC, for the appellants, Mr Jeremy McMillen, QC and Mr Damien Brown for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that Cornwall County Council had owned and managed a number of care homes. Those were expensive to run.

The council was unable to re-negotiate terms for the staff and a scheme was devised whereby most of the homes would be transferred to a company created and financially supported by the council but which had independent charitable status.

It was common ground that the transaction constituted a transfer of an undertaking. After unsuccessful attempts to renegotiate terms the company dismissed the staff and offered them re-employment on less favourable terms and conditions.

The employees accepted the new terms under protest and brought proceedings in an industrial tribunal claiming a declaration that they were still entitled to enjoy their old terms and conditions and seeking compensation for unfair dismissal.

The appellants had come on for hearing before Wilson and Meade had been heard by the Court of Appeal but after the appeal tribunal's decision the industrial tribunal had decided that the dismissals were unfair under regulation 8(1) and that the employees were entitled to continue under their original terms and conditions.

The appeal tribunal had concluded that the industrial tribunal's decision that there had been a dismissal was not logically sustainable.

Although the appeal tribunal was of the view that the decision in *Wilson and Meade* was the view of the very experienced lay members and of his Lordship that the Court of Appeal's decision would produce uncertainty for employers

and employers on the ground. It was the appeal tribunal's duty to spell out those difficulties.

A dismissal which was rendered unfair by regulation 8(1) had to be regarded as a nullity; but if the reason for the dismissal fell within regulation 8(2), where an economic, technical or organisational reason entailing changes in the workforce was the reason for the transfer, the dismissal would be effective.

It was likely to be the case that the employees would simply not know whether the employers had a good case under regulation 8(2). If the dismissal was a nullity the employees remained employed and could not complain of unfair dismissal.

Employees who purportedly had been dismissed in connection with a transfer would be required to allege that their employers, the transferees, had made an unlawful deduction (non-payment) from their wages.

The transferee would then claim that the employees had been dismissed and if the employees then responded that their dismissals were unfair, they would have accepted their dismissal and turned what was otherwise an ineffective dismissal into one which took effect.

The concept of a dismissal which was a nullity seemed to the appeal

tribunal to have unsatisfactory practical consequences. The appeal tribunal also questioned whether in the light of the judgment of the House of Lords in *Lister v Forth Dry Dock and Engineering Co Ltd* (1990) 1 AC 540 the concept had any place in English law.

The industrial tribunal's approach to the factual issue: "What was the reason for the dismissal?" could not be faulted. The question then arose as to the effect of the dismissal.

Having regard to the fact that the Court of Appeal in *Wilson and Meade* apparently recognised that a dismissal falling within regulation 8(1) might become effective if accepted by the employees, it seemed unreal to conclude that despite having continued to work for the company on the new terms the employees were still employed on the old ones.

If they had been dismissed and re-employed as was the reality in the present case, they should be awarded compensation for unfair dismissal deemed to have been unfair by virtue of regulation 8(1). The compensation would represent a once and for all payment which bought out the entitlement to the enhanced but unbecoming terms which they had previously enjoyed.

Solicitors: Stephens & Scown, Exeter; Mr Adam Crane.

## Amending information out of time

**Regina v Scantborne  
Regina v Ex parte M and Another**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Dyson  
(Judgment February 24)

Where an information was laid within the appropriate time limit justices might, after the expiry of that limit, amend the information to charge a different offence where (i) the proposed amendment arose out of the same or substantially the same facts as gave rise to the original offence and (ii) the interests of justice favoured the amendment.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held allowing applications for judicial review by M and C of the refusal by the Southwark Justices to amend informations charging them with robbery to charges of theft and common assault.

The complainant, a girl of 15, alleged that the appellants, aged 14 and 15, had assaulted her, removed her trainers and thrown them into a bush. The appellants were charged with robbery, but subsequently the Crown Prosecution Service agreed to accept pleas of guilty to theft and common assault.

The Justices granted an applica-

tion to amend the information to allege theft but, on the clerk's objection, refused to allow an amendment to charge common assault.

Mr Christopher Kessling for the appellants.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that the clerk's objection, accepted by the Justices, was based on the following:

1 Common assault was a summary offence.

2 A magistrates' court could not try a summary offence unless the information charging it was laid within six months of commission of the alleged offence: see section 12(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

3 The six-month period had here elapsed and

4 There was no longer power to amend to allege common assault.

His Lordship referred to *R v Newcastle upon Tyne Justices, Ex parte John Boyce (Contractors Ltd)* (1976) 1 WLR 571 and *Simpson v Roberts* (The Times December 21, 1964), from which he derived the following principles:

1 The purpose of the six-month time limit under section 127 was to ensure that summary offences were charged and tried as soon as reasonably practicable after their alleged commission.

2 Where an information had been laid within six months it could be amended after expiry of that period.

3 An information could be amended after expiry of that period even to allege a different offence or offences, provided that (a) such offences alleged the "same misdoings" as the original offence and (b) the amendment could be made in the interests of justice.

The phrase "same misdoings" (see *Simpson v Roberts*) was not to be construed too narrowly. It meant that the new offence should arise out of the same, or substantially the same, facts as gave rise to the original offence.

Once Justices were satisfied that the amended offence did so arise, they had to go on to consider whether it was in the interests of justice to allow the amendment. In exercising their discretion they should pay particular regard to the interests of the defendant.

If an amendment would result in a defendant facing a significantly more serious charge that should weigh heavily, perhaps conclusively, against allowing the amendment after the six-month time limit has expired.

There might be cases where a late application to amend would give rise to an application for an

adjournment. Were Justices to conclude that such an amendment would necessitate an adjournment, that might well be a good reason, having regard to the purpose of the time limit in section 127, for refusing to amend.

The need for an adjournment on that ground ought, however, to be rare since the amended offence would arise out of the same or substantially the same facts as the original offence.

Applying those principles to the present cases, his Lordship considered that theft and common assault arose out of the same or substantially the same facts as the original offence of robbery and that the interests of justice plainly required the amendments.

The Justices had applied the wrong test. They had considered that the offences were completely different simply because robbery was a far graver charge than common assault and carried the maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

His Lordship would quash their decision and direct that they amend the informations in the light of the court's judgment.

The Lord Chief Justice agreed. Solicitors: William Beina, Southwark; Premier Parler Sloane, Southwark.

## Time limit not observed

**Regina v Leeds Crown Court, Ex parte Briggs (Ronald) (No 2)**

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Gage  
(Judgment March 4)

"Due expedition" for the purposes of section 22(3) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985, required the prosecution to achieve the possibility of a conviction under section 22(3) of the 1985 Act, if they served committal bundles so that the defence was in a position to consent to an uncontested committal within the custody time limit.

In reaching that decision, Judge Jones found a conflict between the judgment of Mr Justice Jowitt in *R v Norwich Crown Court, Ex parte Parker* (1992) 96 Cr App R 68 and that of Mr Justice Laws in *R v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Behbehani* (1994) 1 Crim LR 352, and stated that he was following the former.

Section 22 of the 1985 Act provides: "(3) The appropriate court may, at any time before the expiry of a time limit imposed by regulations, extend, or further extend, that limit if satisfied... (b) that the prosecution has acted with due expedition."

Mr Kris Gledhill for the applicant, Mr Guy Kaur for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said that he agreed with Mr Justice Laws in

(The Times February 19, 1998). Judge Norman Jones granted prosecution applications to extend the custody time limit on February 6 and February 11, holding that the prosecution acted with due expedition for the purposes of section 22(3) of the 1985 Act, if they served committal bundles so that the defence was in a position to consent to an uncontested committal within the custody time limit.

In reaching that decision, Judge Jones found a conflict between the judgment of Mr Justice Jowitt in *R v Norwich Crown Court, Ex parte Parker* (1992) 96 Cr App R 68 and that of Mr Justice Laws in *R v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Behbehani* (1994) 1 Crim LR 352, and stated that he was following the former.

Section 22 of the 1985 Act provides: "(3) The appropriate court may, at any time before the expiry of a time limit imposed by regulations, extend, or further extend, that limit if satisfied... (b) that the prosecution has acted with due expedition."

Mr Kris Gledhill for the applicant, Mr Guy Kaur for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said that he agreed with Mr Justice Laws in

*Ex parte Behbehani*, that the expression "due diligence" did not mean that the prosecution's only duty was to achieve the possibility of a section 67 conviction within the custody time limit. All due expedition had to be directed towards achieving a contested committal within the initial 70-day period.

His Lordship said that the comments of Mr Justice Jowitt on custody time limits were specific to the facts of *Ex parte Parker* and not applicable in every case. In no way did they conflict with the view of Mr Justice Laws.

Mr Gledhill contended that regulation 40 of the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) Regulations (SI 1985 No 209) aimed at the holding of a contested committal within the custody time limit.

Although his Lordship stated it was not necessary for him to consider that submission, he accepted that there was some force in it. The regulations made it clear that what should be accomplished within the custody time limit was the whole committal process.

Lord Justice Pill delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Nicholas Green, Hall, Ince & Treasury Solicitor.

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# Midland puts business banking back in branches

By Rodney Hobson

MIDLAND BANK has moved business banking back into the hands of the branch manager. The decision goes against the trend in banking to have business banking experts covering a cluster of branches.

Mark Bennett, Midland's head of business banking, said: "We went through the stages of splitting business banking out from personal banking, but we found that customers wanted someone they could go to see, someone who belonged to the local community and knew the environment they worked in."

Mr Bennett says that Midland has invested in training more senior bank managers. Every branch now has a manager who can take decisions on business loans or, in the case of larger branches, a business specialist based at the branch.

Mr Bennett said: "We have centralised a lot of back-office functions over the past ten years. This has taken out so much of the routine procedures. Before that, we found the branch manager was getting bogged down with the operational running of the branch and was not trained and skilled in business. Now we can put in place more senior managers who have

not got to worry as much about day to day operations."

Mr Bennett argues that there is now less reason for branch managers to refer requests for business loans to central decision-making. He said: "We used to have scores of regional officers, but we have done away with that arrangement. In the small minority of cases that have to be referred to a divisional centre, we have a much flatter and quicker referral procedure."

Midland is effectively trying to return to the days when a branch manager was a key pillar of local society. Mr Bennett, once a branch manager, believes that if managers live in a community they will have to live with their decisions.

He says that HSBC, Midland's owner, takes a longer-term view than many banks, but has not changed Midland's policy on credit risk. Giving managers more say on business loans will not lead to the taking on of more marginal cases.

Banks generally have introduced business specialists who typically cover up to six branches, either individually or in teams. Lloyds TSB has more than 500 business centres covering its 2,000 branches. A spokesman said: "The business specialists do not stay put in the centre. They visit the customers at their own premises or see them at a local branch. Typically there are six managers at a business centre. We hope we have struck a happy medium."

NatWest says that 92 per cent of decisions on business loans are made at local or regional level. Each business manager has an individual level of discretion. If a decision is referred to higher authority, the bank will "take on board everything the local manager says".

Barclays says that although most decisions are taken locally, it has introduced greater standardisation of decision-making after experience in the recession. Business specialists from local centres attend branches.



Bennett: going against trend



Julie Kenny, of Pyronix, an electronic security equipment firm, tracks new markets



Jeremy Burgess, of GN Burgess &amp; Co, has stacked up several Far Eastern contracts

## Search on to find best of British exporters

As the extended 1998 awards loom, Rodney Hobson reports on the overseas successes of last year's winners

The search for top exporters among Britain's smaller companies begins today as last year's winners report that they have beaten the impact of the strong pound and the turmoil in Asia. The 1998 Export Awards for Smaller Business have been expanded to produce 12 regional winners. Five winners were picked on a national basis last year. Total prize money has been increased, from about £45,000 to more than £50,000 in cash and professional services. A national winner will be chosen from the regional finalists. There will also for the first time be a prize for the best newcomer in its first year of exporting.

Last year's five winners earned export income of more than £12.5 million in 1997. One winner, GN Burgess & Co, reports that overseas sales of its products — stacking chairs and folding tables — increased 6 per cent in the year to January 31.

The company, based at Feltham, Middlesex, sells to 40 countries. Jeremy Burgess, managing director, attributes the success to maintaining a high profile in countries already served and targeting new markets aggressively. He says:

"Exports have always accounted for 50-60 per cent of sales. The past couple of years have been tougher than normal but we have been out investigating new markets and have been successful because of it."

"In some instances we have had to be competitive with our pricing to offset the high value of the pound but you expect that in business. It would have been a serious mistake to reduce our export initiatives because of these difficulties."

Despite the economic turmoil in Asia, GN Burgess has broken into the Far East. It has won two lucrative contracts in China and one each in Vietnam and Indonesia. Mr Burgess says: "We won those contracts because we had done the groundwork beforehand and recognised an opportunity. When you export you have got to show you are better than the local competition. We have always been very active with trade missions, exhibitions, advertising and regular market visits."

Pyronix, a Rotherham firm making electronic security equipment, works to a five-year rolling plan to identify new markets and the products needed to make an impact. Julie Kenny, managing director, says: "We employ a full-time researcher to compile and collate as much information from as many sources as possible."

"These include customers, exhibitions, trade magazines and the DTI."

"We offer our customers foreign currency quotations which allow them to remain competitive when dealing with their customers. It may tighten our profit margins but our aim is to build long-term relationships."

Giltsur Scientific, a Northern Ireland company making orthopaedic shoes for cows, has broken into the US market since winning one of the export awards last year. Because American cattle are larger, shoes sold there have a slightly higher heel. Giltsur, founded by Ernie Logan, is now working on a

specialised shoe for cows grazing on Alpine slopes.

Boing, which designs children's play equipment, has seen its sales to the Middle and Far East dip over the past 12 months, mainly because of the strong pound. It has compensated by extending operations in South America.

David Taylor, managing director of the Bristol company, says: "Because of our wide range of clients and markets, we can manage if some markets dry up temporarily. We are meeting our sales targets although the sales are not always generated where we would expect them."

The fifth winner last time was Bernhard & Co of Rugby, which sells lawnmower sharpening equipment. Stephen Bernhard, managing director, says the high value of sterling has held back business in the Pacific Rim and Europe.

Even so, it has broken into China and Taiwan and expanded

in its main US market. Companies with up to 250 employees can enter for this year's awards, although past winners include firms with only a handful of staff. Giltsur Scientific had only eight on the payroll.

Companies must be able to show growth in export earnings over the past three years and a turnover in foreign sales of more than £100,000.

The awards are sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, Grant Thornton, Kompass British Exports, TNT Express Worldwide and Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance, with support from the CBI, The British Chambers of Commerce, the TUC and the Institute of Export.

The 12 regions are Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands, West Midlands, East, South East, London and South West.

Application forms are available from the award administrator on fax 01342 33860 or at Kompass British Exports, Reed Business Information, Windsor Court, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1XA.

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# February winners celebrate their success

## The story so far...

It's only March, and it's all happening. Wolves in the cup semi-finals, and the Blades in with a chance too. But that would mean two more premier league clubs out of the cup. You speak as a supporter of the game in general rather than an ITF manager there, I imagine. Quite so — but also as an ITF manager without any Leeds players in his team any more. I seem to remember that you've had quite a few Leeds players at different times. Always at the wrong times, unfortunately. Molenaar, Wetherall, Wallace — I've signed them all, usually just before their worst games of the season. I learnt from my mistakes. And then, by the sound of it. As long as you learn something, my ancestral loyalties count for nothing now. A good thing too. There's no room for sentiment in football. So you're unaffected by the demise of Leeds; did you come out of the weekend well in general? Not too badly. I've got a couple of players from Hearts now; they're right up there in the Scottish league, and they've gone through to the semi-finals of the Scottish cup. Possibilities of a double there, although Celtic and Rangers are probably thinking the same thing. South of the border? West Ham live to fight another day, although another day fighting Arsenal might not be a good thing. They've played one another umpteen times this season, and the Hammers haven't won yet. Plus things often get a bit tasty when players play each other a lot — witness that little centre-circle fracas on the final whistle. Worried about red cards? There is a risk. The non-appearance of your key players in vital games is a big problem when you haven't got many transfers left to play with. The non-appearance of some teams, too. Absolutely. After what seems to be a long time without a game, Leicester will finally be playing again next week, so I might get some points from my man Muzzy, if he isn't suspended. Oh yes, Muzzy Izet, your man at Filbert Street. I must say, this is all very nostalgic. Molenaar, Izet, all these names from your past. Whatever happened to Celestine Babayaro, by the way? He was one of yours, wasn't he? Injured, I'm afraid, but I'm sure he'll be back for Nigeria in the World Cup. Not much good to you, is it? That's all you know. He's already pencilled in for my ITF World Cup team.

The £1,000 prize for February has gone to a proven ITF expert, while the women's league winner is a Liverpool fan from Aldershot

Being based in Aldershot, Corporal Michelle Nicol finds it difficult to see enough of Liverpool, her favourite team; but, as the winner of the ITF women's league for the month of February, she receives two tickets to the premier league game of her choice in addition to a sports bag and a signed football, and it is safe to say that the reds will feature. She has followed the Anfield team for three years. "My husband Ian is well into football and that's how I started getting interested," Mrs Nicol said, readily acknowledging his influence, particularly in her extensive use of Scotland-based players in her team, Michelle's Men. "I'm a Scottish — a Hibs fan, which says it all, really — and I got the knowledge of Scottish football from him. But he's also a long-standing supporter of Liverpool, which went down well in Edinburgh."

Once Mrs Nicol, who plays a bit of football herself when duties permit, got to grips with the format of ITF, there was no stopping her. "I just went for it in February," she said — so much so that she has used up all but one of the 80 transfers she had available. "I was after winning a monthly prize rather than the league. Obviously in February there were a lot of games. I started off with players I knew, then team form and



injuries were the deciding factors. Although Michelle's Men will henceforward have to rely on an unchanged team, she has another side handily placed in the women's league, and, like all successful managers, is looking to the future. "Now I fully understand the rules, I'll be ready for next season," she said.

Jon Pregon of Nottinghamshire is one man who clearly has no difficulty understanding the rules, having won the main league prize for the third month in succession. Like Susan Makin, the internet monthly winner, he receives £1,000 in addition to the match tickets and sports equipment. The latter also go to G. Richards, of Filton, Bristol, and Kevin Mulhearn, of Lerkwick, the youth and students' league winners.



Michelle Nicol, women's league winner for February, receives her award from Jason Dodd, the Southampton defender

## FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF league and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students', youth). Scores and transfer configurations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your two-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF team faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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## LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
£30,000 top prize	Professional players choose their fantasy team
STUDENTS' LEAGUE	Monthly prize of £1,000
Monthly prize of £1,000	Monthly prize of £1,000
Monthly prize of £1,000	Monthly prize of £1,000
Monthly prize of £1,000	Monthly prize of £1,000

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1. S Whitfield	15. S Whitfield	288
2. J Gardner	16. S Whitfield	288
3. S Whitfield	17. S Whitfield	288
4. A Finch	18. S Whitfield	288
5. C Purdy	19. S Whitfield	288
6. A Henslow	20. S Whitfield	288
7. S Brooks	21. S Whitfield	288
8. L Emery	22. S Whitfield	288
9. J Pappas	23. S Whitfield	288
10. J Pappas	24. S Whitfield	288
11. C Ruff-Guinness	25. S Whitfield	288
12. M Hueslin	26. S Whitfield	288
13. C Chavante	27. S Whitfield	288
14. J Woolner	28. S Whitfield	288
15. M Portwood	29. S Whitfield	288
16. M Nicol	30. S Whitfield	288
17. P Johnston	31. S Whitfield	288
18. C Purdy	32. S Whitfield	288
19. S Alport	33. S Whitfield	288
20. S Purdy	34. S Whitfield	288

## STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1. N Wheatley	11. S Whitfield	288
2. J Gardner	12. S Whitfield	288
3. S Whitfield	13. S Whitfield	288
4. A Finch	14. S Whitfield	288
5. C Purdy	15. S Whitfield	288
6. A Henslow	16. S Whitfield	288
7. S Brooks	17. S Whitfield	288
8. L Emery	18. S Whitfield	288
9. J Pappas	19. S Whitfield	288
10. J Pappas	20. S Whitfield	288
11. C Ruff-Guinness	21. S Whitfield	288
12. M Hueslin	22. S Whitfield	288
13. C Chavante	23. S Whitfield	288
14. J Woolner	24. S Whitfield	288
15. M Portwood	25. S Whitfield	288
16. M Nicol	26. S Whitfield	288
17. P Johnston	27. S Whitfield	288
18. C Purdy	28. S Whitfield	288
19. S Alport	29. S Whitfield	288
20. S Purdy	30. S Whitfield	288

## YOUTH LEAGUE

1. M Somapala	11. S Whitfield	288
2. D Lewis	12. S Whitfield	288
3. R Wicks	13. S Whitfield	288
4. J Gardner	14. S Whitfield	288
5. C Dyston	15. S Whitfield	288
6. M McPhillips	16. S Whitfield	288
7. O Luedger	17. S Whitfield	288
8. M Roberts	18. S Whitfield	288
9. J Laurence	19. S Whitfield	288
10. G Richards	20. S Whitfield	288
11. N Brotherton	21. S Whitfield	288
12. C Marfanczak	22. S Whitfield	288
13. K Thindal	23. S Whitfield	288
14. E Swinley	24. S Whitfield	288
15. S Mower	25. S Whitfield	288
16. A Simpson	26. S Whitfield	288
17. B McMillan	27. S Whitfield	288
18. N McGuinness	28. S Whitfield	288
19. J Brady	29. S Whitfield	288
20. G Colerbank	30. S Whitfield	288

## ITF LEAGUE

1. A Luckhurst	1028
2. S Legg	1028
3. M M Jones	1028
4. M M Jones	1028
5. A Luckhurst	1028
6. A Luckhurst	1028
7. A Luckhurst	1028
8. A Luckhurst	1028
9. A Luckhurst	1028
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16. A Luckhurst	1028
17. A Luckhurst	1028
18. A Luckhurst	1028
19. A Luckhurst	1028
20. A Luckhurst	1028

## PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1. Steve Potts	1028
2. Paul Simpson	1028
3. Simon Cooper	1028
4. Jonathan Hunt	1028
5. Paul Savage	1028
6. Mike Westwood	1028
7. John Skelton	1028
8. Robert Law	1028
9. David Shaw	1028
10. David Tule	1028
11. Simon Kierne	1028
12. Nigel Martin	1028
13. Nicky Duff	1028
14. Patrick Berger	1028
15. Steve Lomas	1028
16. David Bailey	1028
17. David Bailey	1028
18. David Bailey	1028
19. David Bailey	1028
20. David Bailey	1028

## INTERNET LEAGUE

1. Mike Madden	1028
2. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
3. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
4. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
5. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
6. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
7. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
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15. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
16. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
17. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
18. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
19. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028
20. Mary Ann Kennedy	1028

## FA CUP LEAGUE

1. Mr M Jones	288
2. Mr M Jones	288
3. Mr P Turner	288
4. Susan Makin	288
5. Mr P Turner	288
6. Jon Pregon	288
7. Mr P Turner	288
8. J Hunt	288
9. Susan Makin	288
10. H & S Management	288
11. Mrs A Staszewicz	288
12. K Farrah	288
13. Mr K Leach	288
14. Alexander Kennedy	288
15. Susan Makin	288
16. T. A. Cap	288
17. Mr P Turner	288
18. I Ralph	288
19. C Burr	288

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The elimination of premier league teams from the cups has left ITF entrants with some tricky decisions

either enough transfers in hand or, alternatively, impeccable foresight, to field a 22-strong squad in their FA Cup teams. A Sheffield win next Tuesday, and ten becomes the maximum.

In all probability it will not come in that, and Dion, Marco, Henrik and company will take the opportunity to contribute a few more points to the totals of those who have stood by them over the season; do not forget that EA Cup points also count towards a player's overall score. Marco Negri, after all, remains the top-scoring outfield player (although recently overtaken by Peter Schmeichel overall). Dion Dublin did score Cossytry's goal on Saturday even if his missed tackle allowed Sheffield United their equaliser, and Henrik Larsson's late, low cross was turned into his own net by Erik Pedersen.

**NICK SZCZEPANIK**



**Donn Dublin, right, celebrates his penalty against Sheffield United on Saturday.**

There are no transfers in  $\Pi F$  this week

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

□ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

☐ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ **YOU MAY** make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ **YOUR NEW** player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ **CALLS COST** 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number 0901 894 628

Transfer number: 0897 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538

Code	Market	Team	S	FWW	FA	LGW	Tot
50101	B Doughty	Aberdeen	4.00	0	1	0	4
50201	I Wridges	Arsenal	7.50	2	0	5	7
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	6.50	3	14	3	7
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	8.00	0	8	2	43
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00	0	8	0	41
50401	S Williams	Aston Villa	3.00	0	5	0	21
50402	G Hirstov	Barnsley	1.50	2	0	1	17
50403	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	0	9	0	21
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	1	10	1	41
50403	C Mercelle	Barnsley	1.00	1	4	1	11
50404	J Florioff	Barnsley	2.00	0	0	0	10
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn	4.50	0	8	0	7
50502	M Beahm	Blackburn	6.00	0	0	0	10
50503	C Nelson	Blackburn	6.50	0	10	0	35
50602	N Blake	Bolton	3.50	0	1	1	4
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton	2.00	0	0	0	17
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton	3.00	0	0	1	12
51801	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	0	4	0	21
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0	0	10
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	2	2	2	3
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	2	6	2	3
50801	R Brecknell	Celtic	6.00	4	0	0	21
50802	J Zola	Chelsea	7.00	0	1	0	5
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	3.50	0	0	0	3
50803	T Flo	Chelsea	4.00	0	0	1	1
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	8.00	3	15	3	8
50902	D Huoharby	Coventry City	4.00	1	9	1	5
50903	N Wheelan	Coventry City	2.00	1	5	1	2
50904	V Moldovan	Coventry City	3.00	1	5	1	1
51001	N Shipperley	C Palace	1.50	0	0	0	10
51002	D Dyer	C Palace	3.00	0	22	0	5
51004	M Pedovan	C Palace	2.50	0	0	0	4
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	0	0	0	31
51103	F Balano	Derby County	5.00	0	5	0	6
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	2	0	13
51105	P Wanchepa	Derby County	3.50	0	2	0	3

51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00	0	0	0	48
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	1	1	2	27
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50	0	0	0	24
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	2	2	0	11
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00	0	0	0	24
51605	C Crawford	Gilmerston	3.00	0	0	0	22
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	3	3	0	42
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	0	2	0	31
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	14	2	0	54
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	3.50	1	9	3	64
51804	H Kewell	Leeds Utd	2.00	1	11	5	25
51901	S Cuthbert	Leicester City	2.50	0	0	0	24
51902	R Buxton	Leicester City	2.50	0	0	0	30
51903	J Marschall	Leicester City	2.50	0	5	0	45
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	0	1	0	18
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	1	0	0	45
52002	P Beder	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	30
52101	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	0	1	1	25
52204	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	0	4	5	25
52205	A Schuster	Liverpool	2.50	0	0	0	24
52302	T Sheringham	Man Utd	7.00	0	8	1	55
52303	P Scholes	Man Utd	6.00	0	3	1	35
52201	O Coyte	Motherwell	3.00	7	1	1	51
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	7	3	5	55
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle	10.00	1	13	1	15
52401	J Tomkinson	Newcastle	2.00	0	0	0	24
52402	A Doolan	Newcastle	2.50	2	1	2	25
52404	M Negri	Rangers	8.50	0	5	0	124
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	1	0	2
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	10	0	0	43
52501	A Booth	Sheff Wed	3.00	3	2	45	51
52702	P Di Canio	Sheff Wed	3.00	0	0	4	51
52801	R Humphreys	Sheff Wed	2.50	0	0	0	24
52901	A Tisser	Southampton	7.00	-1	4	4	34
52902	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	0	1	2	45
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	2.50	0	0	4	34
52704	K Davies	Southampton	4.00	0	4	1	15
52801	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	1	7	1	20
52902	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	0	2	0	55
52901	S Iversen	Tottenham	2.00	0	0	0	24
52902	C Ferdinand	Tottenham	6.00	0	2	0	25
52903	G Armstrong	Tottenham	2.50	0	0	0	20

Date	Name	Team	S	PR	PA	LG	Tot
191902	A McLeish	Hibernian	1.00	0	0	0	-1
191701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	2	0	26
191801	G Graham	Leeds Utd	3.00	-1	8	2	40
191901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.00	0	2	0	34
192001	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	0	1	3	42
192101	A Ferguson	Man Utd	5.00	0	-1	59	58
192201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	0	4	-1	12
192301	D Gallagher	Newcastle	3.00	3	13	3	96
192401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	0	7	0	55
192502	R Addison	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	3	3	24
192701	D Jones	Southampton	1.50	0	-1	3	25
192801	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	-1	5	-1	26
192802	C Gross	Tottenham	2.00	0	3	-1	13
192901	H Redford	West Ham	2.00	1	11	2	40
193001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	0	7	0	29

MEN  
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[illegible]







# British Energy shares race on £160m forecast

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH ENERGY shares surged yesterday as the nuclear power group issued a bullish trading statement and distanced itself from the pricing squeeze faced by its rival coal-burning electricity generators.

British Energy told the market that profits for the year ending March 31 are likely to be more than £160 million, compared with £61 million last year, after a rise in sales and savings from its cost-cutting programme.

Analysts had been predicting profits of £100-£130 million, a British Energy spokesman said.

The group also took the

opportunity to remind investors that it has never had any "coal-backed contracts". These now-defunct supply deals obliged regional electricity companies to pay more for power supplied by coal-backed power plants.

Last week, National Power revealed that it must take a £130 million hit from the termination of these contracts, causing the share price to fall sharply.

Angelos Anastasiou, a Credit Lyonnais Laing analyst, said he was now expecting about £167 million in annual pre-tax profits from British Energy.

By early afternoon, the shares were standing 6 per

cent higher at 456p. British Energy was privatised by the last Government in 1996 and the shares have risen from 189p.

The spokesman said the effect of planned shutdowns for maintenance at nuclear power plants had been over-estimated by analysts.

Regulators scheduled seven such shutdowns at British Energy plants in the current financial year, compared to four last year. There should be only four next year.

The price paid for its electricity has also risen, although the increase has been constrained by fixed-price contracts.

## W H Smith aims for buyback on top of £68m Menzies deal

BY DOMINIC WALSH

WH SMITH is to press ahead with a capital repayment to shareholders despite confirmation yesterday that it is to buy the rival John Menzies retail chain for £68 million.

The group has yet to say how much shareholders will receive, but in the wake of last month's £300 million sale of the Waterstone's bookshop chain, analysts believe that it could pay out up to £250 million through a share buyback.

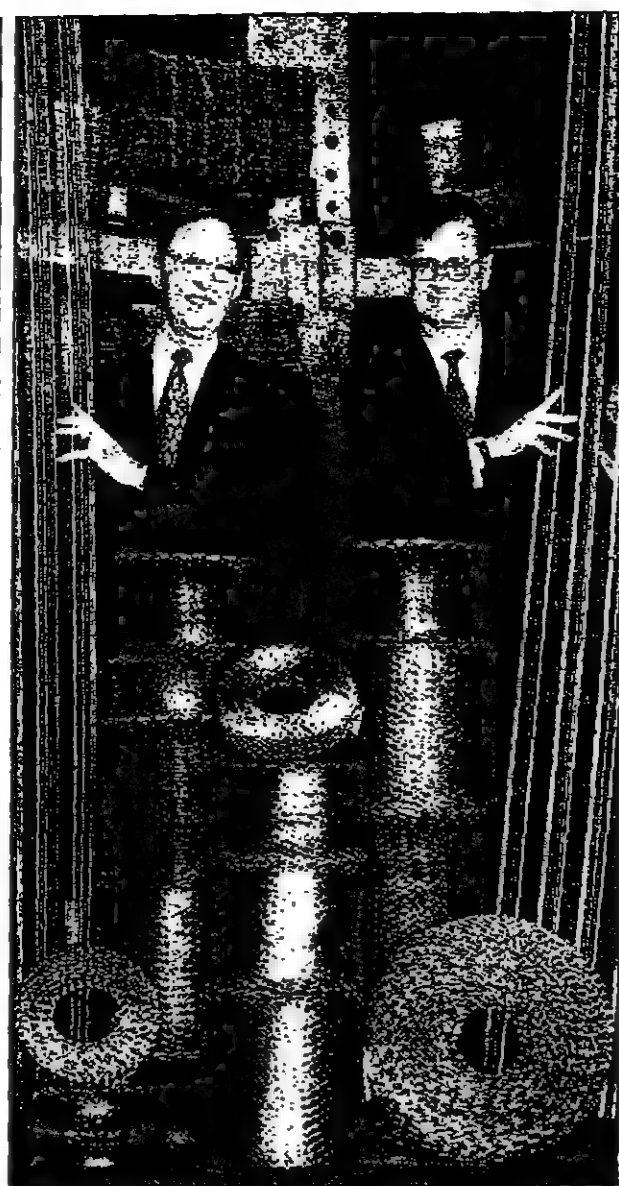
Buying the 232-store Menzies chain takes Smith into the Scot-

tish market. Menzies's name will be kept in Scotland, where it was founded 165 years ago, but most of the 140 Menzies stores in England and Wales will be rebranded. Overlap with Smith's 509 shops will mean some job losses and estimated cost savings of more than £6 million a year.

The acquisition, which is subject to the approval of John Menzies shareholders, pushed Smith shares 10½p higher to 303½p, although observers gave warning that the integra-

tion of Menzies could prove difficult at a time when the group is still trying to revive the core WH Smith chain.

The sale follows John Menzies's announcement in January that it planned to withdraw from retailing in order to concentrate on its distribution business. In addition to seeking offers for its newsagents chain, Menzies said that it planned to demerge its Early Learning Centre toy shop business within three to five years.



John Roberts, left, and Phil Reeder, of Expamet

## Expamet lifts payout

EXPAMET, the building and industrial products group, raised pre-tax profits from £7.2 million to £9.7 million in the year to December 31 after excluding non-recurring items. Earnings per share, on a similar basis, rose from 7.30p to 10.41p. A 2.15p final dividend lifts the total payout from 3.30p to 3.85p. Shares in Expamet, of

which Phil Reeder is chief executive, responded with a 9½p rise to 141p. John Roberts, chairman, said: "Prospects for the existing operation in 1998 are good. With our strong balance sheet there is also the potential to make further acquisitions consistent with our strategic and financial objectives."

## Mirror's profits up before costs of MIN deal

BY RAYMOND SNOODY  
MEDIA EDITOR

MIRROR GROUP, the newspaper publisher, reported a rise in underlying pre-tax profit to £92 million from £82 million last year.

However, a £12 million exceptional charge for integration and financing costs, principally arising from the acquisition of Midland Independent Newspapers, left pre-tax profit of £80 million for 1997, down from £101 million in 1996. The company, whose flagship titles are *The Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, said turnover rose 4 per cent to £539 million.

There was no update on the proposed sale of the 46 per cent stake in Newspaper Publishing, the company that publishes *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*.

Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, based in the Republic of Ireland, also owns 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing and is expected to buy the *Mirror*'s stake this week. The Irish group is expected to take on £26 million in debt from and pay about £3 million in cash. In addition *Mirror* Group will have a management services contract, to handle *The Independent* and run its "backroom", worth about £3.7 million a year for five years.

David Montgomery, *Mirror* Group chief executive, yesterday said the results demonstrated "the continuing robustness" of the core business, while the MIN acquisition had created a more broadly-based media business.

As a result of the MIN acquisition net debt increased to £522 million from £292 million and gearing to 89 per cent from 49 per cent. Cash flow from operating activities rose 13 per cent to £136 million.

Mr Montgomery said the "rejuvenation" of *The Mirror* was working and that cash sales — as opposed to discounted copies or special promotions — were up 30,000. The next stage would be to make improvements at the *Sunday Mirror*.

Underlying earnings rose 9 per cent to 15.6p a share. The total dividend is lifted 11 per cent to 5p, with a 3.5p final.

## Ryanair adds jets to fight BA challenge

RYANAIR yesterday raised the stakes in "the battle of the peanut airlines" with a £670 million order for new planes. Faced with the imminent challenge of British Airways' new low-cost service, Go, the Irish airline demonstrated its own financial clout with an order for 25 Boeing 737-800s.

Ryanair, the longest-established low-fare airline in Europe, has options to buy 20 more, which could add £550 million to the order value, Ryanair said, that it would finance its purchase through a mixture of cash and borrowings.

## Astec directors voted out

EMERSON ELECTRIC, the US company that owns 51 per cent of Astec (BSR), yesterday voted out three directors of the UK electrical power products group: Michael Arrowsmith, finance director, Michael Smith, chief operating officer, and Neal Stewart, technical director and co-founder, who oppose plans to block dividend payments and buy out minority shareholders, are replaced by Stephen Cortinovis, Olivier Delage and Robert Staley, all Emerson nominees. Commentary, page 28

## More jobs go at BSS

BSS, the industrial products group, yesterday said a further 100 staff would lose their jobs in a reorganisation, in addition to the 50 redundancies announced in December. The company's shares fell 20p to 40½p after it said that, although trading was in line with expectations, a project to supply materials to a proposed semiconductor plant in Newport was several months behind schedule, deferring sales worth about £4.5 million. Redundancy costs will total around £1.5 million.

## Waste group up 49%

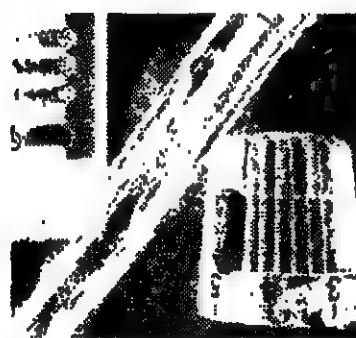
WASTE RECYCLING, the waste control group, raised pre-tax profits 49 per cent to £6.1 million last year, on sales up 77 per cent to £27.2 million. Earnings advanced from 8.1p to 10.9p and the total dividend is up 25 per cent to 2.5p a share after payment of a 1.9p final, up 0.4p. The shares gained 12p to 267½p. The group said: "We continue to evaluate opportunities to acquire further waste management businesses and are optimistic about this year's prospects."

## BSkyB finance chief dies

NICK CARRINGTON, chief financial officer of BSkyB, the satellite TV venture, has died aged 47 after a short illness. Mr Carrington was in his second spell at BSkyB. He was deputy director of finance from 1989 to 1991 when Sky launched its first four channels and merged with BSB to create BSkyB. He was then group finance director at PolyGram UK before returning to BSkyB in May 1995 as chief financial officer. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

# IMI

## FULL YEAR RESULTS



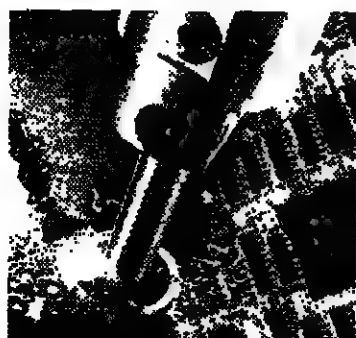
Building Products



Bricks Dispensers



Fluid Power



Special Engineering

"1997 was a year of both financial and strategic achievement. We made good progress both in underlying businesses and through acquisition. Sales increased by 12 per cent, operating profit by 9 per cent and profit before tax and exceptional items by 7 per cent. This growth was particularly pleasing given the strength of sterling."

Gary Allen, Chief Executive

FULL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER	1997	1996
Sales	£1,434m	£1,316m
Profit before tax and exceptional items	£146.5m	£137.5m
Exceptional items	£2.4m	£23.6m
Profit before tax	£148.9m	£161.1m
Adjusted earnings per share	30.7p	25.7p
Earnings per share	31.2p	31.5p
Dividend per share	14.0p	13.0p
Dividend cover before exceptional items	2.2	2.0
Gearing	58.2%	11.5%
Interest cover before exceptional items	26	31

"We are in a strong position to benefit from the emerging economic upturn in Europe and sustained US demand."

Sir Eric Pountain, Chairman

IMI plc, PO Box 216, Birmingham B6 7BA. Telephone: 0121 356 4848

IMI

CMG

"An excellent year..."

Summary results for the year to 31 December 1997

	1997	1996	Increase
Turnover	£303.0m	£245.2m	24% (43%*)
Operating profit	£37.2m	£26.9m	38% (64%*)
Profit before tax	£38.6m	£27.5m	40% (66%*)
Profit after tax	£24.7m	£17.1m	44% (70%*)
Earnings per share	38.6p	27.4p	41% (66%*)
Final dividend	5.0p	4.0p	25%

(\*) On the basis of 20 May 1997 to 31 December 1997. On the basis of 20 April 1996 to 31 December 1996. Dividend date is 14 April 1998.

### Highlights

Group turnover growth virtually all organic

Operating margin up from 11.0% to 12.3%

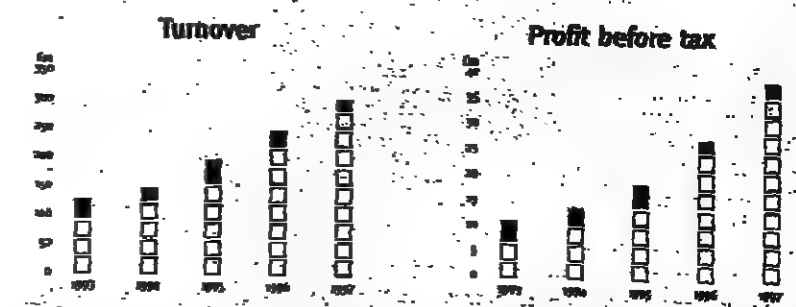
Substantial turnover and profit growth in The Netherlands

Strong growth in the UK; turnover up 34%, operating profit up 49%

Germany returns to profit on turnover up 20% (45%\*)

Staff numbers up 42% to 4945

\*at constant exchange rates



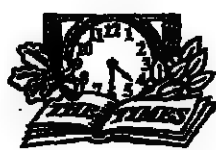
On the outlook for 1998, CMG Chairman, Cor Stutterheim, said, "We expect demand for our services to remain strong for the foreseeable future. We also expect the skills shortage in the IT industry to continue over the next few years, but we are confident that we can remain successful in recruitment. The future for our industry continues to look bright for the years ahead and we fully expect CMG to benefit from these favourable market conditions. We look forward to another year of good growth in 1998."

CMG plc is a leading European IT services group. Established in 1964, CMG now operates in more than 40 countries from its bases in the UK, The Netherlands, Germany, France and Belgium. The Group is listed on the London and Amsterdam Stock Exchanges.

Copies of the full 1997 Annual Report, which will be sent to shareholders during April, may be obtained from Michael Harrington, Group Communications, CMG plc, Telford House, Telford Street, London SW9 6JH. Tel: 0207-233 4282.



# Dutch courage falters



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Brussels is being blamed for halting the £17.5 billion publishing merger of Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer. The prospect of protracted dealings with the unpredictable Karel van Miert is undoubtedly a daunting one. But there are suspicions that if the will to make the deal work had been equally keen on both sides, then the parties would have pursued their grand design through Commissioner van Miert's idiosyncratically erected hoops.

It was last October when they unveiled their plan and they recognised even then that there would be areas of overlap so great as to demand disposals. The intervening months have seen the regulators raise more questions than the companies may have anticipated but as recently as last weekend, Reed was working on possible solutions. It seems that it was Wolters' directors who tired of the process, threw up their hands and said "Let's forget the whole thing".

It is hard to resist the parallel with that other mega-merger which has failed to come into being, the glorious wedding of SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome. In both cases, the companies made such eloquent arguments in favour of the deal that it is difficult for them to walk away from the idea without a certain loss of credibility.

The market has been enthusiastic about the benefits to be had

from turning the Anglo-Dutch Reed Elsevier into even more of a Netherlands operation by joining forces with Wolters Kluwer. Its disappointment registered hard on the Reed share price.

The normally tricky area of personalities appeared to have been dealt with, as Nigel Stapleton, the Reed boss, prepared gracefully to let his Dutch counterpart take the top job. So cynics are now suggesting that perhaps the sordid issue of price had become a subject for discussion again. Did Wolters think this was the moment to try to renegotiate the terms more in favour of its shareholders? If that was the case, Mr Stapleton and his board were clearly not interested.

The companies always knew that there would have to be some disposals to keep Brussels happy: in legal publishing there were obvious monopoly problems. But given the nature of the two companies and the cost savings to be made, negotiating with the bureaucrats as to what sacrifices might be required should have been worthwhile.

The delays Brussels has inflicted on the proposed British Airways link up with American Airlines demonstrate just how

powerful Karel van Miert is, but it will be to the detriment of industry if he is allowed to block deals by default.

## Cazenove capers in the limelight

Kitchens and bathrooms can get extremely grubby, as shareholders in Limelight continue to learn. It was November 1996 when they saw the company in its freshly polished state and were induced to pour in £114 million, encouraged by the presence of snooty Cazenove in the role of salesman. Now the grime is all too obvious, and some of it looks to be the accumulation of more than just a few months.

Investors are unlikely to feel particular gratitude to the non-executive director who is ensuring that the company keeps aloof by guaranteeing its escalating overdraft. Stephen

Boler, for it is he, took out a cool £60 million when the company floated. He wanted the money to fund his ambitions for saving the white rhino in his very own safari park in the Kalahari desert. Perhaps he realised that donations for this noble cause may have been hard to come by, but investors in Limelight may not have realised that they were part of a project aimed at conserving wildlife rather than shareholder value.

The company is now making much of the fact that it has replaced Stephen Coter as chief executive, but the unfortunate Coter was not responsible for giving Moben kitchens and Dolphin bathrooms such a sparkle that the shares sold at 175p, against last night's 38.5p. Stephen Boler built the business and knew what he was selling. So presumably he was not too surprised when putting out of the windows business, as Limelight has done, brought a write-off of

£13.4 million. Not every company that comes to market lives up to its prospectus, but this one has tarnished at record speed. The fact that Boler is now back offering help and advice in a consultancy capacity is not guaranteed to ignite new enthusiasm for the shares.

The statement from Limelight yesterday contained insights which would have been useful additions to the prospectus that Cazenove so blithely allowed to be published. Now there are hints that there may be problems with the Moben image. The strategy for the future involves "repositioning of Moben as a retail brand". There is to be a "rationalisation of the showroom network and relocation of poorly sited units".

Would investors have been so keen to buy had they realised that the brand needed repositioning and so did some of the sites? Investors tend not to quibble

with Cazenove, believing that there will be treats handed out to compensate for the odd disappointment. This time, however, they should make their views known. And if they are also left holding shares in Astec, where Cazenove is trying to do them out of a decent price for their minority shares, they may just feel inclined to do so.

## Inflation hawks' flight of fancy

Invertebrate interest rate hawks continually point out that manufacturing represents only a fifth of the British economy. Its plight in the face of the strong pound and chill winds from Asia should not deter the Monetary Policy Committee from squeezing the inflationary pips out of consumers, they say.

That argument is true only up to a point. In the real world, it is impossible to ignore a death dive in one sector of the economy because it will, eventually, drag down others. For one thing, manufacturing is a considerable buyer of services. According to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, manufacturing buys as much as

20 per cent of all British services. It is also likely that recession in manufacturing would, at some stage, have a psychological impact on consumers. Britain may now be predominantly a service economy but British people still accord disproportionate importance to manufacturing. Widget makers are still seen as more crucial to the economic health of the nation than hairdressers.

A few banner headlines proclaiming large redundancies and company closures in our industrial heartlands would simply reinforce the caution and even fear that has come with the flexible labour market.

In any case, as the British Retail Consortium figures suggested yesterday, the British consumer is nothing like as rampant as the inflation hawks suggest. The risks for the economy are, as economists are wont to say, all on the downside.

## Resale value

BANKS and insurers bought estate agents at the top of the market to compete with building societies. But the Pru and others found agencies were not just outlets but businesses that could lose vast sums in a slump. Lloyds TSB was in first and bought sensibly. Having bought a building society instead, it would be ironic if Lloyds sold its agencies at the top of the market to another society lender, Bradford & Bingley, that wants to boost its market share.

# Laporte prefers deals to share buybacks

By CARL MORTIMER

JIM LENG, chief executive of Laporte, yesterday said the company would use its cash-rich balance sheet to buy new businesses rather than buy back shares.

Laporte yesterday impressed the City with a 14 per cent rise in profit from continuing businesses, adjusted for constant currencies. At the pre-tax level profits were up 4 per cent to £132 million, or 12 per cent at constant currencies in the year to December 31.

Laporte's drastic restructuring and a sharp squeeze on working capital has left the group cash-rich, with a net £130 million in funds. Mr Leng said the group would be spending the equivalent of 9 per cent of sales on capital expenditure and would seek to

buy businesses with leadership positions, suitable for the "Laporte treatment". He said: "We are not short of ideas."

Mr Leng said that Laporte's restructuring was largely complete, having achieved its target of 15 per cent operating margins and 25 per cent return on capital one year ahead of schedule. He has imposed new targets by adding two-and-a-half points to each measure.

Currency translation reduced sales by £57 million and profits by £10 million during the period. Mr Leng said Laporte's exposure to Asian turmoil was limited, with only 4 per cent of sales and profits coming from outside the US and Europe.

The chief executive's arrival at Laporte in 1995 was followed

by a profits warning and heavy restructuring charge that hit the share price. Mr Leng said the margin improvement was not exclusively cost-related. "There is an element of slash and burn. We reduced our head office staff from 180 to 60. We have jettisoned products where the market would not pay a decent price." He pointed to volume growth of 7 per cent in speciality chemicals.

Laporte is ratcheting up investment levels, with research and development spend up 20 per cent on the previous year. Capital expenditure was twice the rate of depreciation last year and a new R&D laboratory for the fine chemicals business is expected to open this year. Some £30 million

has been invested in a new compounding facility. Mr Leng said the estimated £30 million cash investment restructuring programme had already been recouped, leaving the cash cost to shareholders at nil. Laporte ended the year with nil gearing and £130 million of net cash.

Laporte's speciality organics division raised profits by 23 per cent to £24 million during the period, while pigments showed a rise of just 3 per cent to £33 million. Laporte's compounds and electronic chemicals business managed an 8 per cent rise in profit to £44 million with growth picking up in printed circuitboard chemicals in Taiwan.

Tempos, page 30

# IMI encouraged by strong orders

By PAUL DURMAN

IMI, the manufacturing group, is confident of achieving further growth this year in spite of a "flat" UK economy.

Gary Allen, chief executive of the company, based in Birmingham, said that order books were particularly strong on the Continent and in the US, which together account for more than half the group's £1.4 billion of annual sales. Germany's economy was "noticeably improving".

IMI, whose products include radiator valves, drink dispensers and pneumatic equipment, was reporting a 6.5 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits, to £146.5 million, for 1997. Sterling's strength cost IMI about £20 million, but the group was keen not to make too much of this, pointing out that this was largely offset by £18.9 million of profits from five acquisitions. Mr

Allen said IMI was planning on the basis of a DM3 pound. The shares rose 9p, to 459p. Paul Compton, analyst with Merrill Lynch, said that he was astonished that they had not risen further. He said that IMI's strategy of buying good products and using its distribution network to increase sales meant that "the buy argument is virtually flawless". He added: "This is the next Siebe. It has that sort of security to it."

The fluid power division gave the best performance, lifting its profits by 25 per cent, to £38 million. Drink dispensers lifted profits to £35.7 million (£33.8 million), equal to a 14 per cent rise before currency effects. An 8.6p final payout, to be a foreign income dividend, lifts the total 7.7 per cent, to 46p.

Tempos, page 30

# Close shares rise after 30% profit

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Close Brothers, the independent merchant bank, rose nearly 7 per cent yesterday after it reported a 30 per cent increase in first-half profits to £36.7 million.

The price of the shares, which has doubled in the past year, rose 45p to 726p after the company said market making, corporate finance and factoring had all done extremely well during the six months to January 31.

Corporate finance proved particularly strong, as the bank completed 26 deals with a value of £2 billion, including the £700 million sale of William Hill, the bookmaker, to Nomura. It would be difficult to repeat this performance in the second half, it said.

Dealing income at the market making business, Winterfloods, rose 18 per cent to £24 million. On the equity

side, the bank had "weathered the October 1997 squall" to benefit from improved conditions in the New Year.

Strong competition took the shine of its asset finance business, which grew 13 per cent, while Prompt, the insurance premium financing business, struggled against a difficult market and falling commercial premiums.

Rod Kent, the chairman, said he was confident Close Brothers had access to sufficient capital to see it through the next expansion period. Its two biggest shareholders, Calsonic Investments with 25 per cent, and Prudential with 11 per cent, fully supported the business, he said.

Mr Kent hinted at some small acquisitions, but said there was nothing imminent.

Tempos, page 30



Tim Hely Hutchinson said record profits were achieved in an uneven market

# Hutchinson confident of boost from superstores

TIM Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of Hodder Headline, the publishers, forecast yesterday that the British reading public should have access to between 20 and 30 "superstore" bookshops within the next three years (Raymond Snoddy writes). With such stores likely to

stock more than 100,000 books and the first superstore in Glasgow already trading well Mr Hely Hutchinson is expecting a continuing boost to book sales.

The Hodder Headline chief executive was speaking as the company announced record pre-tax profits of £8.2 million

in the year to December 31, a rise of 24 per cent.

One factor behind an improvement in margins was a 10 per cent reduction in the number of titles published but a 9 per cent increase in sales as more support was put behind those that were published. Mr Hely Hutchinson said the record results were achieved in uneven market conditions.

The Hodder Headline share price rose 14p to 239p. City analysts now expect pre-tax profits of around £9.5 million for the current year.

Hodder Headline, whose titles range from the memoirs of Sir Edward Heath and Dickie Bird, the cricket umpire, to the fiction of Tom Clancy and Dean Koonitz, said yesterday that the current year had started well with UK booksellers continuing to report encouraging results.

One difficult area for Hodder is school textbooks with, according to Mr Hely Hutchinson, only £30 a year on average being spent on each secondary school pupil.

"This is bad for our business and it is also bad for children's education," he said. Earnings per share were 15.8p (13.3p), like-for-like publishing sales rose from £86.4 million to £91.6 million and the dividend for the year will be 7.2p (6.5p) after payment of a 5.0p final.

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## STOCK MARKET



**MICHAEL CLARK**  
Stock Market Writer  
of the Year

# FTSE back above 5,800 as Wall St fears subside

SHARE prices on the London stock market clawed back above the 5,800 level after Wall Street shrugged off another profits warning from one of its high-tech leaders.

The bears were soon on the run after another drop in industrial and manufacturing output that reduced the prospect of interest rate rises, evidence of a large "buy" programme and a welter of upbeat trading statements.

The sell-off in New York that had been expected to follow Friday's profits warning from Compaq never materialised. This helped to underpin sentiment in the City and enabled share prices to close on a high note.

The FTSE 100 index, after suffering a brief hiccup, eventually closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 36.0 to 5,818.9. Turnover was on the low side with 733 million shares changing hands.

The halt of the £175 billion merger talks with Wolters Kluwer left Reed International nursing a fall of 5p to 620p. Brokers had high hopes of Reed creating one of the biggest publishers in Europe if the deal had gone ahead.

Claims that Reed will turn its guns on rival Pearson, owner of *Financial Times* and Penguin publishing, appear wide of the mark. Pearson shares touched £10.08 before ending 49p dearer at a new high of 992p. They were cheered by comments from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the broker, which takes the view that Pearson is the main growth play in the sector.

Halfax rose 5p to ex-dividend to 925p after confirming plans to launch a £780 million bid for Birmingham Midshires Building Society which is already the subject of an agreed bid from the Royal Bank of Scotland, up 32p to 935p.

City speculators had been counting on Halfax using some of its £4 billion surplus cash to launch a bid for Norwich Union. Norwich touched 484p before rallying to finish 17p better at 515p ahead of its first results since going public, due out today.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, is taking a cautious short-term view of Whitebread, up 1p to £10.11, downgrading its recommendation for the shares from "accumulate" to "neutral". It continues to buy the shares for the longer term.

British Energy was in an upbeat mood, telling brokers



Mike Hardy, left, and Kevin McDonald saw a modest rise in Polypipe profit despite higher raw material costs

that profits for the year to March 31 would exceed brokers' forecasts. The shares responded with a leap of 23p to 454p. The news comes just a week after National Power, down 7p to 577p, issued a profits warning linked to the ending of the coal-backed sales contract.

AAF Industries rose 4p to 344p after news of share-

buying by several directors. Michael Smithyman, chairman, has bought 100,000 shares (0.43 per cent) at 35p. Another director has picked up 15,000 shares at 35p.

Speculative buying hoisted Manx & Overseas 14p to 84p. Desmond Land, the former chairman of Premier Land, has been appointed chairman and managing director of the

## Isle of Man-based distribution group.

WH Smith firmed 10 1/2p to 503 1/2p after confirming plans to pay £68 million for rival John Menzies' retailing arm, which went up for sale in January. John Menzies responded with a jump of 13p to 44 1/2p.

The signal was coming through loud and clear at Pace Micro Technology as the price surged 5p to 44 1/2p. Pace is one of six companies to be awarded the contract to supply British Digital Broadcasting with set-top boxes. The Pace share price collapsed from a peak of 235p last year after a profits warning.

A modest increase in profits at Polypipe was the excuse for investors to take profits with shares in the building supplies group finishing 8 1/2p cheaper at 177p. The company, where Mike Hardy is managing director and Kevin McDonald executive chairman, said the profits increase had been achieved despite further rises in raw material costs.

Ruberoil, which has disposed of its Bryan McCann subsidiary for £3 million, firmed 1 1/2p to 83p as ISH Capital, the privately owned Canadian company, increased its holding with the purchase of a further 500,000 shares. It takes ISH's total holding in the company to 4.27 million, or 8.86 per cent.

Details of a £15 million contract from Welsh Water to build storm overflows, provided a 10p flip at 235p to Tibery Douglas. The construction company is due to unveil results later this week.

[GILT-EDGED: Bond prices scored gains of more than 1p, drawing strength from the latest industrial output numbers, which reflected the impact of the strong pound on manufacturers.

This combined with opening gains among US treasury bonds enabled prices in London to close near their best of the day.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed 1 1/2p better at £107 1/2, while among conventional issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 also rose 1/2p to £109 1/2.

[NEW YORK: Shares rose in morning trading despite the market being haunted early on by Compaq Computer's warning on first-quarter earnings. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 49.07 to 8,618.46 at midday.

## New York (midday):

Dow Jones 8618.46 (+49.07)  
S&P Composite 1058.06 (+2.57)

## Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 10972.53 (+159.48)

## Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 10594.09 (+34.58)

## Amsterdam:

AEX index 1094.08 (+10.19)

## Sydney:

AO 2880.7 (+13.1)

## Frankfurt:

DAX 4780.83 (+64.88)

## Singapore:

SEAC 1538.66 (+32.49)

## Brussels:

General 1432.93 (+17.49)

## Paris:

CAC-40 3525.35 (+42.38)

## Zurich:

SEA Gen 1441.00 (+4.90)

## London:

FT 30 3700.3 (+48.9)

FTSE 100 5818.9 (+36.0)

FTSE 250 5287.9 (+7.2)

FTSE 350 2783.1 (+14.7)

FTSE Europe 100 2640.7 (+19.2)

FTSE All-Share 2709.0 (+14.2)

FTSE Non-Financials 2692.2 (+13.2)

FTSE Financials 135.7 (+0.8)

FTSE Govt Secs 103.8 (+0.2)

Bargains 76.62

SAQ Volume 753,000

US\$ 1.655 (+0.007)

German Mark 2.905 (+0.009)

Exchange Rate 106.1 (+1.3)

Bank of England official rate 1.5136

ESXZ 1.2183

RPI 199.5 Jan (3.94) Jan 1997-100

RPIX 157.7 Jan (2.94) Jan 1997-100

## Athlone Extrusions

85% 242 1/2 +1 1/2

Bass B 94 1/2 -1

Diageo B 51 1/2

Eurotunnel 01/03 Mar 7 1/2

Konsoum 193 -1

Quintus Holdings 128 1/2

Sanctuary Wm 4 1/2

## Wates City 1/4 (94)

97 1/2 - 2 1/2

## RISES:

Hall Eng 201p (+22 1/2)

Seamline Hldgs 214p (+20 1/2)

STIR 210p (+20 1/2)

Biocomp Int 190p (+17 1/2)

Liberty 512 1/2 (+25 1/2)

Calsonic 370p (+25 1/2)

Cloze Bros 726 1/2 (+45 1/2)

Williams 389p (+20 1/2)

BPP 720p (+30 1/2)

Page 1 Gen 128p (+12 1/2)

Oxford Int 307 1/2 (+14 1/2)

Br Airways 604p (+27 1/2)

Dudley Jerns 322p (+17 1/2)

Tibery Douglas 235p (+10 1/2)

Photobank 308 1/2 (+13 1/2)

Walson 519p (+13 1/2)

Waste Recyp 939p (+32 1/2)

Ryl Bk Soc 815p (+17 1/2)

Novich Union 516p (+12 1/2)

Helphing Gp 424p (+14 1/2)

## FALLS:

Reed Int 620p (-57 1/2)

BSS Gp 405p (-20 1/2)

RMS Gp 946p (-40 1/2)

Ud Shoules 283p (-10 1/2)

Scotia 306p (-10 1/2)

Ud Shoules 283p (-10 1/2)

Scotia 306p (-10 1/2)

Ud Shoules 283p (-10 1/2)

Scotia 306p (-10 1/2)

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Scotia 306p (-10 1/2)

Ud Shoules 283p (-10 1/2)

Scotia 306p (-10 1/2)

## Dispense with low rating

IMI is an unfashionable company and engineering is an inadequate description of its activities, which include making heating boilers, soft drinks dispensers and the pneumatic parts of industrial handling systems. Perhaps that is why shares in this well-regarded group sit, modestly, on less than 14 times forecasts of this year's earnings.

IMI has had a busy couple of years, buying half a dozen businesses, and selling or closing even more. The benefits are not immediately apparent from the latest results, which show only a 6.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits.

Beneath the surface, there are signs that IMI has hit on a promising strategy to unite its three and a half divisions: specialist products with strong market positions that are able to benefit from the group's strengths in distribution. Special engineering is the

division that only counts half, because the component companies do not fit this profile.

Some idea of what IMI can do can be seen from Heimeier, the German radiator valve business, which has increased its exports by more than a third since it was bought two years ago. Wilshire, the fruit juice dispenser maker that was one of last year's purchases, is also said to have seen a 40 per cent rise in sales.

A rising tax charge may hold back earnings growth this year, but the continuing strength of the US and the recovery in the German economy should enable IMI to make £160 million, or about 32p of earnings per share. The shares, up to 488p, have already had a good run over the past three months, but IMI's management have a dependable feel that makes the stock a decent long-term investment.

## CMG

THIS time last year, when CMG shares were about £10, miserable investment tipsters were urging investors to hold or sell. A year later, they're still at it, but the shares are worth more than £23.

Even CMG's management seem uneasy at the unrelenting rise in the share price.

Another change signal is that the company's recent acquisitions have been at prices nowhere near the ratings accorded the quoted stocks in the UK's information technology sector. If informed buyers and sellers of computer services companies are able to strike deals at reasonable prices, why should stock market investors be willing to pay outrageous premiums?

According to Chris Banks, CMG's finance director, present levels of growth are

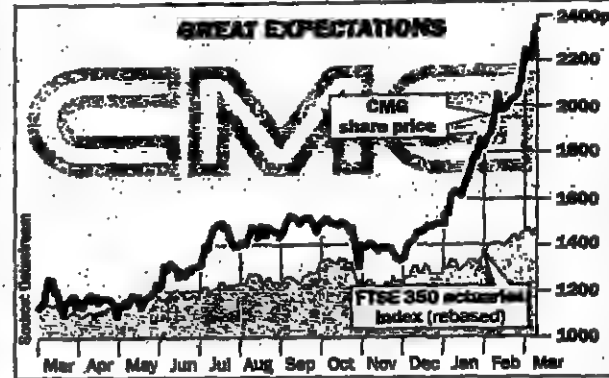
## CMG

unsustainable for the next ten years. This doesn't stop investors drooling over his company: very little of the business is dependent on either cross-border trade (vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations) or the millennium bug and EMU.

The shares may receive another boost from the bonus issue - much of the

## CMG

stock is still in the hands of employees. But given the current hysteria, ratings, the latest hint of bad news will send the price plummeting. Mr Banks knows this, but then, he and most of the company's employees need not fear a return to rational pricing. They probably bought their shares when they were £20 cheaper.



## Laporte

There are qualms that Jim Leng's regime at Laporte has been more blunderbuss than new broom. Laporte has removed about 40 per cent of its staff along with a third of group sales. That kind of strategy, if kept targeted, will inevitably raise operating margins. Sure enough, Laporte has met its targets of 15 per cent return on sales and 25 per cent return on capital, a year ahead of schedule.

Mr Leng emphatically believes Laporte can continue this improvement. He has added 2 1/2 points to each of his profitability targets, but he can be under no illusion that the hard task lies ahead. Laporte has little left to cut and generating margin improvement from sales is more difficult than sacking people - albeit better for morale.

Nevertheless, Laporte deserves the benefit of the doubt. Its figures suggest that real volume growth is

there, if patchy. Both fine chemicals and compounds managed to grow sales amid all the retrenching and cutting. The test will be in fine chemicals, a prime example of the sort of specialist, defensible, business where Laporte sees its future, producing components for new drugs and agro-chemical products. The test is securing the contracts from the big pharma groups.

A bet on Laporte is not expensive - it is on a market rating. Specialty chemicals have enjoyed a re-rating but Laporte has been left behind.

## Close Bros

BIG may be beautiful but small can be splendid. Just ask Close Brothers, the independent merchant bank. While bigger rivals like Barings and Morgan Grenfell have been brought to their knees by a series of scandals, Close Brothers has prospered. And how! Five years ago, the bank's stock

was worth little more than £1.60. Yesterday, Close Brothers broke through the £7 level, taking its market value to £800 million.

Investors must ask themselves whether the stock can sustain this growth, given that Close Brothers is no longer the minnow it once was. Certainly, underlying business appears sound. Two of its three core markets - corporate finance for mid-caps and market making - are in rude health, while asset finance is on a steady keel.

Close Brothers' prospects will depend to a greater extent on whether it can continue to run the business as if it were still small: the bank essentially comprises a cluster of businesses, each employing no more than 100 staff - businesses you can get your arm around, as Rod Kent, chairman, described them yesterday. The record justifies continued holding.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

## COMMODITIES

LONDON FUTURE			
CRUDE OIL (Brent)			
Mar	1050-1055	May	1100-1105
Apr	1055-1060	Jun	1105-1110
May	1060-1065	Jul	1110-1115
Jun	1065-1070	Aug	1115-1120
Jul	1070-1075	Sep	1120-1125
Aug	1075-1080	Oct	1125-1130
Sep	1080-1085	Nov	1130-1135
Oct	1085-1090	Dec	1135-1140
Nov	1090-1095	Jan	1140-1145
Dec	1095-1100	Feb	1145-1150
Jan	1100-1105	Mar	1150-1155

ROBUSTA COFFEE (B)			
Mar	1050-1055	May	1100-1105
Apr	1055-1060	Jun	1105-1110
May	1060-1065	Jul	1110-1115
Jun	1065-1070	Aug	1115-1120
Jul	1070-1075	Sep	1120-1125
Aug	1075-1080	Oct	1125-1130
Sep	1080-1085	Nov	1130-1135
Oct	1085-1090	Dec	1135-1140
Nov	1090-1095	Jan	1140-1145
Dec	1095-1100	Feb	1145-1150
Jan	1100-1105	Mar	1150-1155

WHITE SUGAR (NO. 11)			
Mar	271.0-271.5	May	276.0-276.5
Apr	271.5-272.0	Jun	276.5-277.0
May	272.0-272.5	Jul	277.0-277.5
Jun	272.5-273.0	Aug	277.5-278.0
Jul	273.0-273.5	Sep	278.0-278.5
Aug	273.5-274.0	Oct	278.5-279.0
Sep	274.0-274.5	Nov	279.0-279.5
Oct	274.5-275.0	Dec	279.5-280.0
Nov	275.0-275.5	Jan	280.0-280.5
Dec	275.5-276.0	Feb	280.5-281.0
Jan	276.0-276.5	Mar	281.0-281.5

COMMISSION				MAY 98		JUN 98	
Average futures prices at representative markets on March 6				Apr	13.08-13.10	Jul	14.28 BID
				May	13.47-13.49	Aug	14.62 BID
				Jun	13.92-13.93		Vol: 40878
				Index: 1105 +3			
				LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
				Copper 1575.0-1575.5			
				Zinc 1776.0-1779.0			
				Lead 1962.5-1965.0			



# Labour pains over the future of PFI

The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) ranks alongside world peace, reducing traffic congestion, and making the English cricket team competitive as one of those ideas that everyone is in favour of but no one can actually agree to put forward. For the Government, PFI is a means of carrying out vital infrastructure projects without damaging the public sector balance sheet. For the construction and business services sectors, it means juicy long-term contracts. Even the City lends PFI its full support, eagerly anticipating healthy advisory fees and commission-generating, finance-raising work.

Yet it appears hard to believe that, five years after the launch of the PFI, the participants are still struggling to get the formula right. PFI-style projects have provided a total of £8.5 billion of funding during this period — well

short of the original target of £14 billion by the end of this coming financial year.

If political will-power alone was enough to ensure the success of PFI, then the Government should by now be reaping the rewards of the initiative. The new Government has taken to PFI with all the zeal of a convert, employing all its, by now, trademark techniques to try to push the project along. First, there was the policy review. Now there is the PFI taskforce, led by the compulsory private sector recruit — in this case Adrian Montague, former head of international project finance at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Yet still the PFI stubbornly refuses to achieve lift-off. Labour claims to have signed PFI projects valued at £1.5 billion — hardly a big advance on the Conservative record and a tiny fraction of total public infrastructure spending.

The PFI gremlin lurks deep in the system. One of the principle attractions of PFI is that it shares the burden of risk between the risk-averse public sector and the risk-taking private sector. The private sector wants to get deals signed quickly, working on the basis that although a few mistakes will be made on the way it is better to keep generating new business. Whitehall arrives at the negotiating table with a different agenda. Its main task is seen as ensuring that no public money is wasted. Civil servants will run up to 400 separate risk models for any project before deciding to proceed. PFI agreements run to hun-



dreds of pages of law, technical specifications and design requirements, so it is not too surprising to find that big projects can take up to three years to be finalised. For the Civil Service, PFI represents only a fraction of total expenditure of a government department and the job is normally left to a mid-ranker. The high-fliers are channelled into policy-making — devising all those ideas that look so great on paper — like the PFI. The private sector is left complaining that the Government's PFI managers are simply not up to the complexity of the task. In the near term, the change

of Government has not helped. The last Government established a track record in road and prison PFI deals, reducing the time taken to agree prison PFI projects, for instance, to around nine months. Prisons and roads are not Labour priorities so Whitehall has had to start the whole process of establishing templates, especially for health and education, all over again. Deadlines are in danger of slipping, leaving the City muttering that it is not convinced. Labour is entirely committed to taking PFI forward. The City's own commitment levels rest solely on the belief that a few loss-making new projects will result in a flood of revenue-generating projects in the future. If the Government is really determined to make things work long term, it faces two stark choices. It can either try to tackle the Whitehall culture

that hampers the completion of projects, encouraging the Civil Service to see PFI projects as a genuine priority and allocate the right people to the job, or it must put flesh on its broader commitment to public/private partnerships. Joint-venture projects would allow the Government to tackle the larger projects in one go and put more onus on the private sector to find the requisite finance, complete the deals and absorb the risks. The word is that the Government is inclined towards this approach for reviving the London Underground. However, joint ventures stray dangerously into the more politically sensitive area of privatisation and Labour will risk antagonising some of its own support. The PFI remains one of those good ideas, but to work, the Government will have to finally make one of its fabled tough choices.

# Fresh thinking offers flexible approach to pensions problem

Any scheme should offer scope to help the poorest, says Tony Christopher

The consultation papers on both stakeholder pensions and individual savings accounts (Isas) lead me uncomfortably to the conclusion that neither really approaches people's future needs in the best way — certainly not in a way likely to be acceptable, let alone attractive.

The all too obvious weaknesses in the Isas proposals have already been widely publicised. What is missing is a clear acknowledgement that there might, indeed should, be provision for a link between Isas and whatever is to come on supplementary pensions. If Isas are not seen as laying a trail for retirement age provision, they are a bad mistake.

The Isas and stakeholder pensions are aimed broadly at a large proportion of the same market: the 11 million people who are not in an employer's or a personal pension scheme and who are, in the main, the less well paid. It is difficult to imagine that many of them will be able to afford to contribute to both. And it is not at all clear, given National Savings and other existing savings schemes, how the whole expensive paraphernalia of an Isas is justified. Paps and Tesas, revised as they may be, could as well continue.

But it is necessary to challenge the desirability of so narrow a concept as a stakeholder pension. The time has surely come to set aside such a conventional approach and talk about provision for retirement.

The clear issue the UK Government is facing is that it is no longer affordable to uprate basic state pensions beyond inflation nor to see a future inflationary gap for those who, in their working lifetimes, could reasonably have made such a provision for themselves. What would not be helpful would be a poor, cheaper substitute for occupational pension schemes or employers with de-



When people retire they should not be required by law to buy an annuity, but at present this is their only option

finised benefit pension schemes will, inevitably, be attracted to switch — as has been the experience in the US. The direct contribution plans introduced in the US Revenue Act 1978 have led to a phenomenal move away from direct benefit plans — not least because employers found them much cheaper.

What our trade union movement will resist, rightly, is anything that encourages employers to wind up good existing occupational schemes. There is already a move in that direction. Thus, while there could hardly be objection to voluntary contributions beyond the minimum (subject, because of tax benefits, to a cap) what we should be seeking to provide for is enough money to give a reasonable, but comfortable, addition to the state pension for those who, otherwise, will not have that unless the State provides it.

To accomplish this, compulsion will be unavoidable and if there is compulsion what is required of people must be seen to be fair and attractive. It must not be, nor look like, taxation or increased national insurance

contributions, which it easily could do. To accept this at the outset makes it easier to move on with a different approach.

So far only orthodox thinking seems to have featured in what would be pension providers have been saying, but, unless we do something fresh, we shall go on perpetuating the weaknesses in what we have now. We have to provide:

□ personal ownership, thus providing full portability within the EU;

□ rock-bottom costs;

□ best value for money.

That is not what we have today in pension schemes, so what should be done differently?

First, personal ownership. Ideally within a mutual fund, an individual retirement savings fund (IRSF) — a fund, not a pension scheme — with regular reports of balances held.

Secondly, the abandonment of the statutory requirement to buy an annuity as the only available course of action on retirement. Options that could be offered instead include:

□ putting the accrued savings in a personal retirement fund, drawing down in accordance

with statutory requirements, which could include care in old age subject perhaps to tax considerations. On death such a fund would form part of the deceased's estate. This would be perceived as honest and attractive by many.

□ purchasing an annuity in the usual way.

□ requiring everyone on retirement to pay to Government from their fund such a sum as is required, by periodic actuarial valuation. The Government would be responsible for paying a supplementary pension and for inflation-proofing it. This means the Government is assured about the citizen's minimum income and because the State is both insurer and payer there are no regulation costs, no private-sector profits to be met and, assuming payment is with the basic state pension, no extra payment costs.

Any surplus in an individual fund would be for the individual to do with as he or she wished, or he or she could be required to maintain a fund for old-age care provision similar to the personal retirement fund outlined above. This means that all receive what they put in (and what is put in for them if employers contribute) plus growth. What could be envisaged, putting it simply, for a 40-year working life, is 30 or so years of equities and a progressive shift to lower-risk funds nearer retirement.

This idea would enable an effective contribution to individual retirement needs a good deal earlier than the present proposals, benefiting the Treasury without cost to the citizen.

The question of which employers, if any, should contribute compulsorily, and to what extent, should be for discussion. Looking at the reaction to a minimum wage — even discounting the extent to which it is over-reaction — the economic fact is probably that too many small employers would find it hard to afford. What is more, it could be a strong disincentive to extending the provision of occupational schemes. Perhaps it would be wise to build in a national employers' responsibility into the minimum wage; that could offset some economic

effects of compulsory saving and provide a basis for exempting smaller businesses but including the rest.

Similarly, it would be constructive if the State made modest contributions to IRSFs during unemployment. There should be full tax relief (capped) on contributions from employee and employer and no fund dividends, with taxable pensions.

One problem will bite whatever is done: getting the regular contribution from the pay packet to the investment manager. It is in this area that big costs could arise, and when small savings are being taken from medium to low incomes margins will be tight if charges are not to swallow up savings.

This subject deserves a study of its own. It is a troublesome issue in respect of those without bank accounts. There are delays now — some inevitable, some not — in transferring PAYE and national insurance deductions to the Inland Revenue and Department of Social Security. Even if we forget loss of interest, how does a pension account provider monitor receipts? What happens if some never arrives? Quite a few employers default for one reason or another. And what about the self-employed?

It could well be the straw that breaks a few private-sector backs when it comes to offering supplementary pensions arrangements — for the tranches of people who need to be catered for would be contributing the small sums that most present providers shun.

To conclude, neither Lloyd George, nor anyone since, has put the ultimate pension system in place. That is an understatement, not a criticism. These proposals at least provide a world of work that is rapidly changing. However, before any decisions are taken on what is understood to be an almost overwhelming volume of evidence received, it would be prudent for the Prime Minister to ask a committee drawn from a range of relevant specialists to assess what it would be best to do. We are making plans (inevitably controversial) for needs almost half a century ahead. No scheme since Lloyd George has survived that long.

□ The author is Chairman of TU Fund Managers, a former president of the TUC and general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

# Stark warning for corporate hospitality

The Gold Cup favourite at Cheltenham is Money. This is ironic since, if the scaremongers are to be believed, this might be the last time scores of companies choose to entertain their business contacts at one of the corporate hospitality events of the year.

The instant reaction to the Law Commission's recommendations for new laws to tackle the abuse of corporate hospitality (70 per cent of its recommendations become law) was that companies might be reluctant to indulge in this style of marketing in the future.

But the caterers who make a killing from corporate entertaining should not rush to pack up their tents. The commission's plans to punish bribery are primarily, though not exclusively, aimed at public servants. If private companies abide by some fundamental rules they can happily entertain safe in the knowledge that the fraud squad will not come knocking on the door.

Firstly, as long as senior management of a company is aware of and consents to its employees being entertained, then there should be no grounds for allegations of corruption.

But perhaps the most important reason why the changes should not have a significant impact on the marketing industry is because corporate hospitality is rarely used for securing new customers but, instead, for retaining existing ones.

In the Law Commission's eyes, building stronger links with existing business partners (or using corporate hospitality as a means of obtaining useful information about a company) is a legitimate business practice. The commission seeks to stop companies, and in particular public bodies, from using lavish incentives or "sweeteners" to gain new business. The difference between inviting a prospective customer to a clay-pigeon shoot and, on the other hand, sending him plane tickets and keys to your villa in Corfu could be between that of respectability and a spell in Ford Open Prison.

"It's going to be a question of degree. That's how it's going to be judged," says Charles Webb, chairman of the Corporate Hospitality & Event Association.

The line between hospitality and what constitutes bribery is far from straight. The

commission openly recognises the difficulty of enforcing such a law and says that only the most blatant cases will be prosecuted. Even so, the very threat of such measures reminds us starkly of what is at stake were corporate hospitality to be severely curtailed. Apart from depriving executives of regular doses of cold salmon, it would be a serious blow to an industry just beginning to grow after the recession. But just how much of a loss would it be to the UK companies that spend £500 million annually on entertainment?

A recent survey of 260 blue chip companies, carried out by market research company Total Research, found 66 per cent of respondents failed to assess the effectiveness of their corporate hospitality. One top car manufacturer spends £500,000 taking the fleet managers of big companies to 90 events a year. Yet, it cannot tell you if its guests preferred horse trials at Badminton to motor racing at Silverstone, or if the person who attended the event really was the right person to influence. For many companies "research" is a quick phone call to see if the guest had a good time.

But despite the lack of effective monitoring, many companies believe that meeting customers face to face in convivial surroundings helps business.

"At the end of the day, people do business with people and not just the companies they represent," says Randle Stouffer, managing director of Motilore, one of the largest organisers of events. "It's much easier to address certain issues when you are sharing a drink with someone."

Robin Coles, managing director of Show Presentation Services, which rents out audio-visual equipment, spends £16,000 a year on a box at Richmond Rugby Club. Lunch and a chance to mix with the players is part of the package. "Our selling point is our people, and the box gives us the ideal opportunity to thank clients and give them a good time," says Mr Coles. As long as it remains just that, the business community can continue to market itself with a glass of champagne in one hand and a clear conscience in the other.

JULIAN LEE

# Good returns

WHAT an agreeable place to work Lloyds TSB must be. Not only has Sir Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman, landed a £5.2 million paper profit from his share options, but they are pretty generous with special bonuses. Sir Nicholas is keen on old clocks and barometers, and he will be able to afford quite a few when he cashes in his options and retires. This may not be too far off, either, because he is 63 and this exercise of almost



"OK, there's somebody else but it's not serious"

780,000 share options has a delectable look to it. The bulk of them, £46,000, date back to 1989, when Lloyds and TSB were as yet unmerged, and have to be exercised within ten years or they lapse.

I am unable to ask the great man what he plans to do with the money, and it would, I suppose, be an impertinence. "I don't think he will speak about a personal decision anyway," Lloyds TSB tells me. Also doing well is Sir Simon Hornby, who gets a £50,000 special bonus for his "considerable efforts" as chairman of Lloyds Abbey Life for five and a half years until the bank bought in the minority shares. A period during which he was paid as well, of course. There is, alas, no indication of the huge pay-off Lloyds TSB is going to have to award Andrew Longhurst, former boss of the Cheltenham & Gloucester, when he goes next month. That will have to wait until the 1998 accounts. But I have heard a figure of £2 million mentioned.

□ Société Générale has deemed this an appropriate time to start securities trading in South Korea. I like the understated way SocGen refers to the troubles there: "Although the Korean economy is currently going through an adjustment process..." It



brings to mind the famous remarks of Emperor Hirohito, conceding defeat after Hiroshima and Nagasaki: "The war situation has developed, not necessarily to Japan's advantage."

# Change of Liffe

SIGNS that the split is deepening at Liffe between the modernisers and the traditionalists. There are those who would rely on a super new computerised trading system at a super new building at Spitalfields, and those who rather enjoy the current set-up whereby a middle of testosterone-fuelled males in bright blazers shout at each other. The Liffe board

has called a general meeting of members — will they wear their jackets and shout at each other, I wonder?

The board has decided to "review its premises requirements" and look for "the most cost-effective solution", which looks like a bit of fence-sitting put in to mollify those who do not much care for a move to Spitalfields. A decision not to go there would be an enormous U-turn. Daniel Hodson, Liffe's chief executive, says: "It doesn't mean we're proposing not to proceed with the Spitalfields project. It's very much a possibility." Sounds like a definite maybe, I say, teasing. He bats it straight back. "It's a definite maybe."

□ IT SEEMS Ottakar's, the rather splendid chain of bookstores now coming to the market, was put together in someone's lunch hour at Warburg's, because this is where Philip Dunne, chairman, was working more than ten years ago when he was approached for help by a long-standing friend, James Henegge. Both put in an unspecified amount of money, worth considerably more today. (Henegge will not say how much of the £30 million the company is valued at is his, and seems to think he can get away without saying so as the float progresses; he will learn.)

Hard to imagine Warburg's, ten years ago, was so relaxed a place that you could cheerfully put together your own deals in your spare time. But it seems it was.

# Mail shot

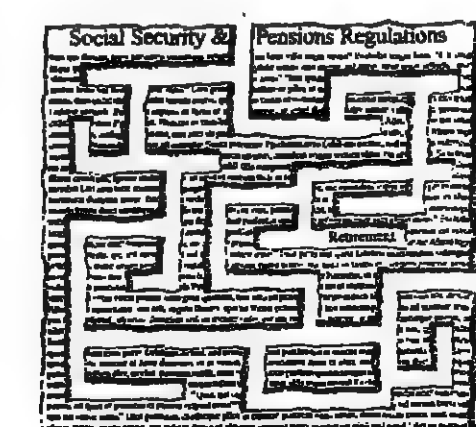
THE LAWYER has sent a postcard to various City law firms in an attempt to drum up advertising. It features a familiar, black and white shot of Lich Ramirez Sanchez, the international terrorist better known as Carlos the Jackal. "Murders & Executions," it says under the picture. Crossed out, substituted with the words "Mergers & Acquisitions". Who said lawyers have no sense of humour? On second thoughts, I prefer them without one.

MARTIN WALLER



Carlos the Jackal: chilling mail shot from The Lawyer

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# Générale des Eaux submits merger proposal to Havas

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

COMPAGNIE Générale des Eaux, the French conglomerate, yesterday moved to take over Havas, the media group, completing the first stage of an ambitious plan to become an international communications group.

After months of speculation, Jean-Marie Messier, 41, the chairman of Générale des Eaux, submitted plans for a merger to the boards of both companies. Havas shareholders, who look certain to approve the proposals at a general meeting to be called within the next two months, will receive a dividend of Fr107 (£10) per share.

Last year, Générale des Eaux took a 30 per cent stake in Havas, which in turn has a dominant 34 per cent stake in Europe's biggest pay-TV company, Canal Plus.

Yesterday's move will be decisive in the transformation of the conglomerate from a

construction and environment service business into a group focused on the media and telecommunications industry.

The company will employ more than 230,000 people and have an annual turnover of about Fr220 billion, with a quarter of its income from its communications arm.

Pierre Dauter, the chairman of Havas, will step down and be replaced by a close associate of M. Messier, Eric Licop.

The takeover of the 163-year-old Havas, the world's fifth biggest media company with a turnover of Fr51.5 billion, was imposed by M. Messier as part of his drive to create a vertically integrated media group. This will combine Canal Plus with Havas's publishing interests and Générale des Eaux's telecommunications business.

The move will be followed closely by BT, the French conglomerate's partner in

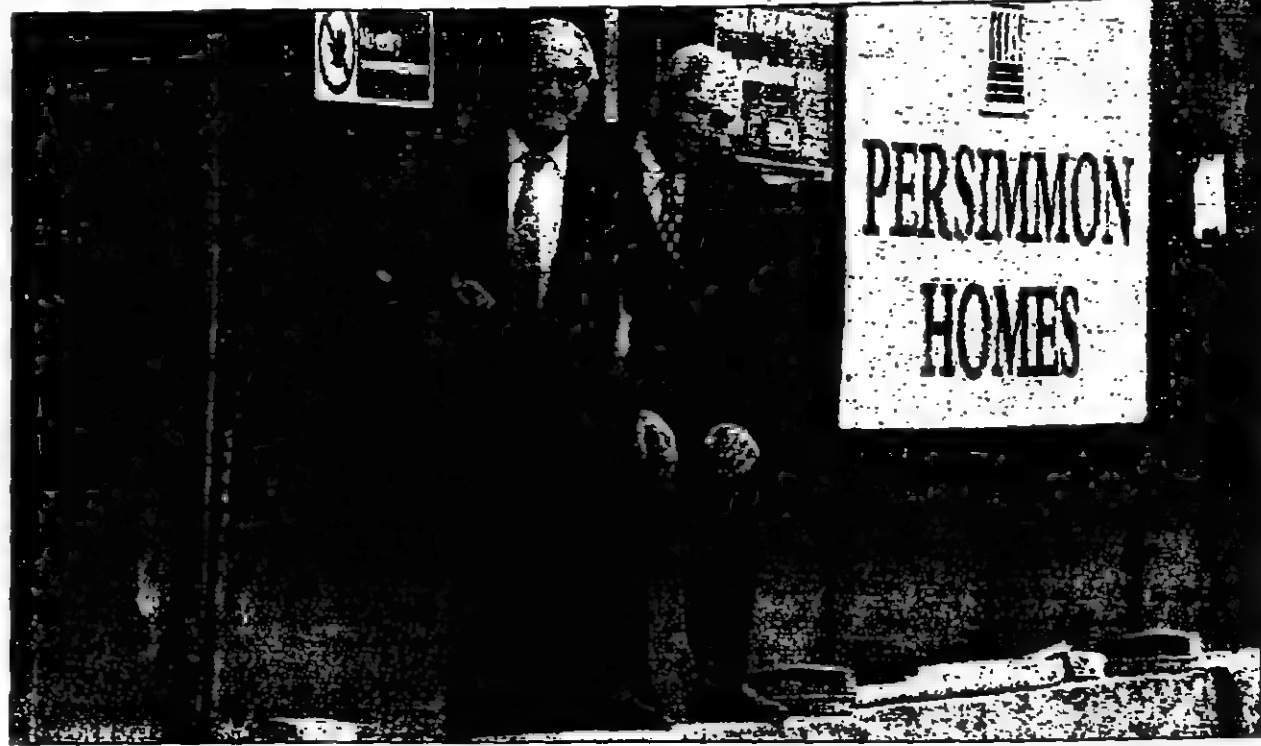
Cegetel, the telecommunications subsidiary aiming to control 20 per cent of the French market by the end of the decade.

The deal will also interest British advertising agencies, with Havas's subsidiary, Havas Advertising, the world's eighth biggest agency, looking to merge with "an Anglo-Saxon partner".

Havas's travel agency chain, Havas Voyages, is likely to be sold to Amex of the United States.

Analysts say M. Messier's plan is a spectacular gamble designed to create what one described as a "European Time Warner".

Although there is some scepticism over M. Messier's chances of revolutionising a company that has specialised in water treatment, his reputation as the "golden boy" of French business has helped to silence many of the doubters.



Duncan Davidson, left, and John White, chief executive, believe that Persimmon is well placed to build market share.

## Persimmon aims to build position

PERSIMMON, one of Britain's largest residential builders, yesterday announced record pre-tax profits in 1997 and warned its competitors that it was in its best condition ever to win market share (Kathy Lipari writes).

Profits rose 53 per cent to £50.5 million before tax after

the company boosted its operating margins by a fifth to 11.8 per cent. Duncan Davidson, chairman, said operating margins in the current year were up about 15 per cent on the same time a year ago.

He said: "I believe that Persimmon is in the strongest position in its history. We have

national coverage, an excellent landbank, a fine range of homes and a very strong management team."

The company sold 6,521 homes during the year, up from 6,008 in 1996, resulting in a sales increase of 17 per cent to £523.1 million.

However, Mr Davidson

said Persimmon had considerable scope to increase market share from its current level of 4.5 per cent in the new homes market.

Earnings rose 40 per cent to 21.3p a share. A final dividend of 6.8p lifts the total to 30p from 9.5p in 1996. The shares rose 5½p to 247p.

## C&RP soars 82% to a record £11m

By CARL MORTIMER

PROFITS at Capital & Regional Properties surged 82 per cent to a record £11.1 million after a year in which it was transformed into a specialist retail and leisure property group.

Martin Barber, chairman, said the rapid pace of deals left Capital with opportunities to add significant value but he gave warning that "the market itself is not advancing at the pace which it has over the last couple of years".

Capital's net asset value per share at December 31 rose 28 per cent to 272p after an 11 per cent rise in the value of its investment portfolio. The company acquired £207 million of retail property and sold £97 million of assets. Mr Barber said that five shopping centres bought last summer gained 6 per cent in value during the six months under Capital's ownership.

Operating profits rose from £5.6 million to £6.1 million after a 60 per cent rise in gross rents. Pre-tax profits benefited from £4.8 million of profits from disposals. The dividend for the year is up 17 per cent to 3.5p after a 30 per cent gain in earnings to 15.3p.

## Hall Engineering focuses on Asia

SHARES in Hall Engineering rose 15½p to 194p after the group said it was ready to plunge into the choppy Asian markets in the search for growth. Richard Hall, the chairman, believes there are opportunities in Singapore and Hong Kong, in particular. Otherwise, he said, conditions remain difficult in many of its markets and the tough competitive environment coupled with continuing currency fluctuations, posed a big challenge.

Hall raised pre-tax profits from £13 million to £18.3 million on sales, down from £230.6 million to £209.9 million, in the year to December 31. Earnings rose from 20.98p to 28.55p and the dividend from 10.02p to 10.4p. The fall in turnover reflects a programme of disposals. Mr Hall said the three-year programme of reshaping the group has largely been completed.

## Readymix 45% increase

READYMIX, the building materials company based in the Irish Republic, increased its pre-tax profits by 45 per cent, to Ir£12.6 million (£10.5 million), in 1997. The company said that an "unparalleled level of construction activity" in the Republic, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man had been driven by the buoyant economy and favourable weather conditions throughout the year. Earnings per share rose 31 per cent, to Ir£5.58p. A final dividend of Ir£3.7p lifts the total to Ir£5.22p a share, from Ir£4.3p.

## Tay trading profit up

TAY HOMES, the housebuilder, raised its trading profits by 27 per cent to £1.8 million in the six months to the end of December. Pre-tax profits fell from £4.17 million to £1.76 million because of a previous half-year disposal. Sales fell from £50.8 million to £50.16 million although the average price of its houses rose from £77,500 to £86,200. The dividend rises from 1.7p to 1.8p out of normalised earnings up from 3.0p to 4.0p. The group has been able to increase its land bank to 4,250 plots, slightly higher than last year.

## Polype confident

POLYPE, the building materials group, raised pre-tax profits 6.2 per cent to £12 million in the half year to end December on sales up 28 per cent to £20 million. Earnings rose 3.2 per cent to 4.80p and the half-year dividend rose 12 per cent to 1.03p. The shares fell 8½p to 177p after Kevin McDonald, chairman, said: "The group balance sheet is robust and from this strong base we are, overall, in less than buoyant conditions, confident of yet another satisfactory outcome for the current year."

## Manganese warning

SHARES in Manganese Bronze, which makes London taxis, fell from 412½p to 403½p after the group revealed a fall in first half pre-tax profits from £4.1 million to £1.4 million and warned that it expected profits for the full year to the end of July to be lower than the previous year. The introduction of the TX1 model cost £2.5 million. Half year earnings fell from 17.32p to 5.27p although the dividend rises from 3.50p to 4.00p. Hugh Lang, chairman, said: "Demand for the TX1 is very strong."

## Avon Rubber in US buy

AVON RUBBER is to acquire Hi-Life Rubber in America for \$36 million (£22 million) cash. Hi-Life, which is based in Wisconsin, makes and distributes liners for the dairy industry. It made \$4.6 million in the year to December and has net assets of \$6.9 million. The deal is the third made by Avon during the past five months. Steve Wilcox, the chief executive, said the move reinforced the company's strategy of enhancing its portfolio and geographic coverage. The shares rose 1½p to 657½p.

## Vymura advances

VYMURA, the wallcoverings manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits 15.9 per cent to £5.1 million last year, after close control of costs and margins. Sales fell from £43.8 million to £41 million, because of disappointing overseas markets, especially in North America, where sales were nearly halved. Eastern Europe, specifically Poland and Russia, is to be the main target for expansion this year. Earnings per share increased 19.3 per cent to 14.2p and the total dividend for the year rose 0.4p to 5.4p.

## Dredging sales ahead

BRITISH DREDGING, the aggregate, ship repair and builders merchant group that is currently in bid talks, raised pre-tax profits from £2.1 million to £2.9 million in 1997 on sales up from £42 million to £44.5 million. Earnings fell from 12.45p to 11.10p after a reversal from a tax credit of £44,000 to a charge of £976,000, although the total dividend rises from 5.9p to 6.5p. Net assets per share rose from 138p to 141p and the shares rose 1½p to 180½p. On the bid approach, the company says discussions are continuing.

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## Growth of IT forecast to slow

By CHRIS AYRES

THE heady levels of growth being seen in the information technology sector are unsustainable in the long term, the finance director of one of the stock market's most successful computer services companies said yesterday.

Chris Banks, of the Anglo-Dutch company CMG, said the firm had received 2,000 staff in the year to December 31, boosting the workforce by 40 per cent.

"The rates of growth we are seeing now, if you look at the next ten years, are unsustainable," he said.

"If you take our headcount and add 40 per cent each year it is ridiculous. But demand is still strong and I don't see that reducing over the next two to three years," Mr Banks added.

CMG aims to recruit another 2,000 staff this year, although Mr Banks said the market for new staff would get tougher as the industry's skills shortage continued.

His comments came as the company reported a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 from £27.5 million to £39.6 million, on turnover of £303 million, up 24 per cent from £245.2 million.

Shares in CMG rose 65p to 233.7p, compared with 326p in 1996. The company plans a bonus issue "to improve the marketability of our shares".

Earnings per share were 38.6p, up 41 per cent from 27.4p, and a total dividend of 7.5p, up from 6p, will be paid on May 20.



Confident Trevor Finn, the chief executive, still has £40 million earmarked to spend on expanding Pendragon's car dealerships this year.

## New franchises fuel Pendragon

By KATHY LIPARI

THE purchase of a fleet of new dealerships helped Pendragon, the car retailer, lift pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £18.1 million last year.

The acquisitions were performing to expectations and had contributed about £1 million to profits, said the company, although they had affected overall margins.

The new dealerships include 17 Ford and Vauxhall operations bought from competitor Tex Service Group towards the end of last year.

Trevor Finn, the chief executive, said there will be further rationalisation and restructuring this year, which would allow greater benefits from the new businesses, and the existing operations to filter through.

In the first two months of 1998, volumes were about 10 per cent ahead of last year, he said. "The group goes

into 1998 with a strong balance sheet, which will enable us to progress our investment programme and take advantage of further opportunities."

"We look forward with confidence to continuing growth and sustained profitability."

Mr Finn said Pendragon still had about £40 million earmarked for the current year to spend on acquisitions and the expansion of its dealerships.

Turnover during the year jumped from £581.5 million to £663.7 million while earnings per share increased 7 per cent to 21.2p.

New car sales were responsible for the majority of the growth in 1997 with gross profits rising from £25.7 million to £35.5 million.

Investors will receive a final dividend of 7.1p up from 6.6p for a total 10.7p for the year.

## Record at British Vita beats City expectations

By MARTIN BARROW

BRITISH VITA, the polymers, fabrics and fibres company, said stable raw material prices helped offset the adverse impact of the strength of sterling in 1997, when pre-tax profits rose to a record.

The company reported a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.2 million yesterday, ahead of City expectations. Earnings rose to 19.9p a share from 18.5p.

Despite a reduction in turnover to £85.4 million from £85.8 million, the company lifted operating profits to £5.5 million from £4.9 million, with operating margins up by a fifth.

Bob McGee, chairman, said the overall business environment

was more favourable in 1997 than in 1996. The company had succeeded in repositioning activities to improve its performance in some of the tougher markets.

Raw materials prices were generally stable, with the exception of some reduction in polyester fibre prices and increases in specific polymers within the industrial division. Generally, increases anticipated during the fourth quarter did not materialise.

The bulk of operating profits came from the cellular polymers division, which makes block foams, mouldings and foam mattresses. Its profits rose to £3.1 million from a revised £2.2

million despite a fall in turnover to £49.7 from £50.1 million.

Industrial polymers, which produces rubber compounds, coatings and thermoplastics, had stable profits at £1.7 million, against £1.6 million last year, on turnover that eased to £20.3 million from £20.4 million.

Turnover also fell in fabrics and fibres, down to £14.4 million from £16.1 million, but profits rose to £7.7 million from £7.1 million.

Mr McGee said the company had made an encouraging start to the current year in most areas of operation. The financial crisis in the Far East, which has affected demand for

raw materials, should ensure that prices would remain stable in the short to medium term. He said the company's broad geographic spread and product portfolio would help offset the adverse impact of the Asian crisis.

Mr McGee said it would be possible for British Vita, which is now capitalised at around £640 million, to be able to make an acquisition worth around £100 million without putting undue pressure on the balance sheet.

A final dividend of 10p a share lifts the total dividend to 19.4p a share from 18.2p, payable from earnings from continuing operations that rose by 15 per cent to 19.5p.

## Regal revamp to cost up to £90m

By DOMINIC WALSH

REGAL HOTEL Group is to change its name and rebrand its hotels as part of a three-year capital expenditure programme costing between £75 million and £90 million.

During the next two years, Regal has quadrupled in size, Charles Vere Nicol, chief executive, estimated its enterprise value — a combination of market capitalisation plus debt — at £320 million.

The new brand for the 100-strong hotel network was yesterday described by Mr Vere Nicol as "quite quirky and evocative". It will be made public this month.

The rapid pace of expansion was reflected in a 67 per cent

jump in 1997 pre-tax profits, to £17.4 million, on turnover that improved 53 per cent to £101.8 million.

Earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 5.17p and a final dividend of 0.85p, which is payable on June 1, makes a total of 1.25p (1.0p).

Mr Vere Nicol said that 1997 had been "a year of solid growth", with all the key ratios moving ahead. Sales per available room were up 3 per cent to £21.25 and average room occupancy rose from 62.2 to 63.7 per cent. The achieved room rate was up 4 per cent on 1996, to £36.70. Room refurbishments yielded a return of around 20 per cent.

## Successors named as Candover rises 35%

By RICHARD MILLS

CANDOVER, the investment trust company that specialises in venture capital, has reported a 35.2 per cent rise in 1997 pre-tax profits to £7.3 million.

Net assets grew 12.3 per cent to £161 million, as Candover raised £850 million to finance investments over the next two to three years.

Roger Brooke, chairman, said that Candover had realised its investments in 11 companies during the year, including Ever-shut Leasing and European Rail Catering.

Net assets were 703p a share, up from 635p a year ago. The shares fell 23p to 87.5p yesterday.

Funds invested in 1997 total-



Brooke to retire next year

and the £360 million acquisition of UPN from United News & Media.

Mr Brooke, who intends to retire at next year's annual meeting, said that the main event of the year had been the successful closing of the £580 million Candover 1997 Fund, which includes a co-investment of £100 million by Candover.

Mr Brooke will be succeeded by Stephen Curran, the chief executive. Doug Fair-service will become joint deputy chairman. Colin Buffin and Marek Gumieny have been made joint managing directors with immediate effect.

Earnings per share were 23.37p, fully diluted, up from 16.95p. A 15p final dividend lifts the total to 20p, from 15p.

### LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

#### LEGAL NOTICES

**BANDAI INC LIMITED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

1. By a written resolution of the shareholders of the above company, passed on 2 March 1998, the company has agreed to

2. The above resolution was passed by a majority of three-fourths of the shareholders of the company, entitled to vote at the meeting.

3. The above resolution was passed in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985.

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#### PUBLIC NOTICES

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## Confident funds put trust in FTSE 250

By ALAN DAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FUND MANAGERS are shifting their attention to stocks outside the FTSE 100 index as confidence grows that consumer spending is set to remain strong.

The Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey of UK fund managers, showed the number of institutions favouring the FTSE 250 index of stocks doubling in March, although there was a decline in the overall level of buying in the UK market.

Equity buyers out-numbered sellers by just 3 per cent compared with 14 per cent in February. The number who preferred large cap stocks declined from 9 per cent to 53 per cent, while FTSE 250 buyers jumped from 15 per cent to 38 per cent.

Trevor Cheatham, a global strategist at Merrill Lynch, said that medium-sized companies are more exposed to the domestic economy and fund managers have become buyers in the belief that consumer spending will remain strong.

The growing sense that the UK economy may not be slowing so rapidly after all may help explain why managers are at last paying more attention to the FTSE 250.

However, a majority of fund managers still expect base rates to climb higher, although the survey was conducted ahead of last week's not to change interest rates.

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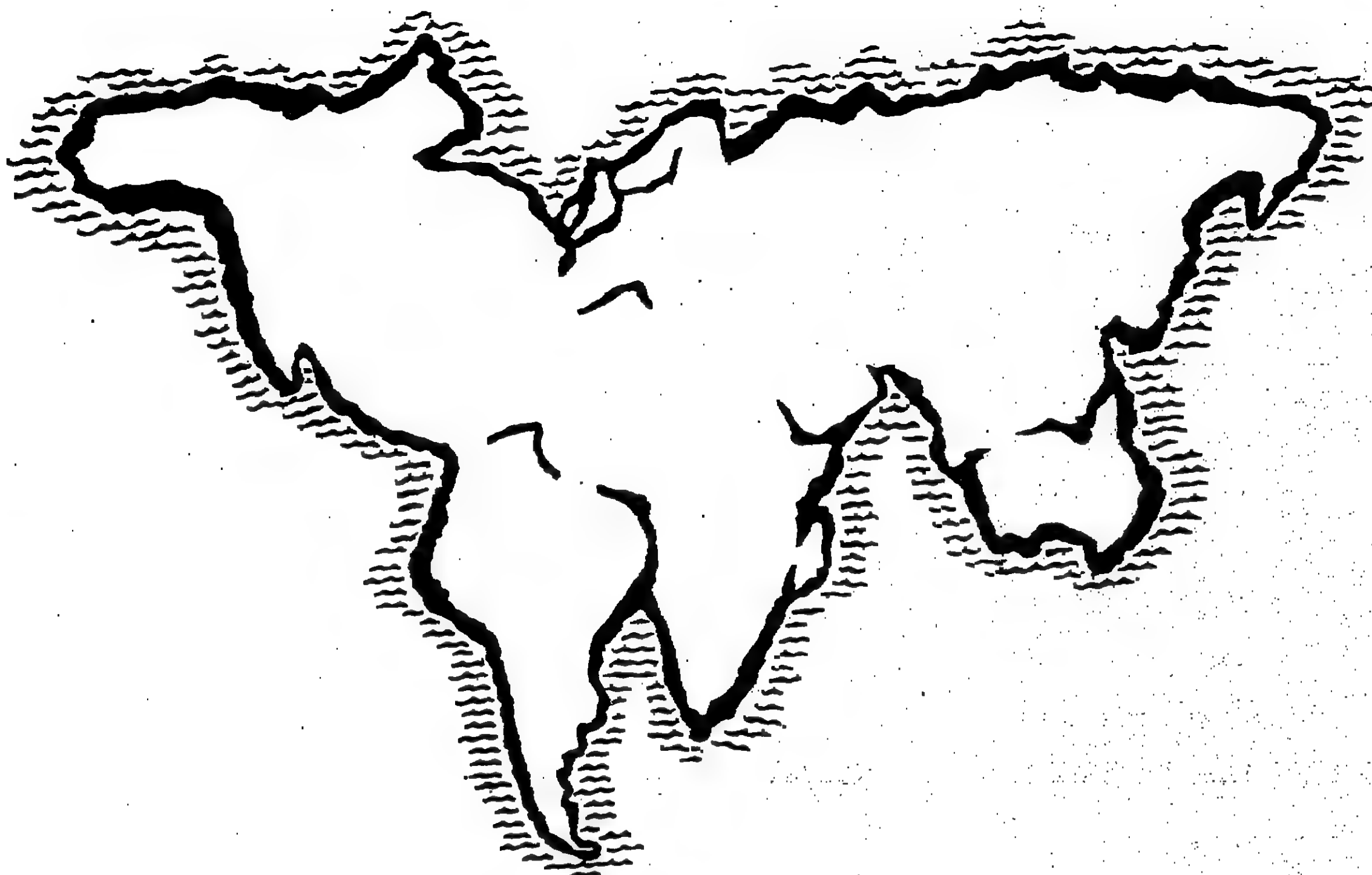
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بِذَلِكَ أَصْلَحَ



Richard Cork on three exhibitions celebrating the photographic genius of the 90-year-old Henri Cartier-Bresson

# Panoramic view of a people person

Feted with 90th birthday celebrations in major exhibition spaces right across London, Henri Cartier-Bresson's work survives the test with a masterful display of Gallie sang-froid. At the Hayward Gallery, his 182-plate survey of European life over the past 60 years amply justifies his reputation as the finest living photographer. Another substantial offering, this time focusing on 120 of his most outstanding portraits, is being presented at the National Portrait Gallery. And now, a Royal College of Art survey has revealed the least-known of his achievements: 150 drawings, mostly produced since he made the audacious decision to put aside his camera and, at the age of 65, take up the pencil instead.

At first disconcerting, this change of medium is more understandable than it might appear. For Cartier-Bresson trained as an artist in Paris, long before he learnt how to look through a viewfinder. One of the few paintings on view at the Royal College shows a female nude, reclining in the studio belonging to his teacher, André Lhote. It is a pleasant study, like most of his other surviving student works. But their modest level of achievement gives little hint of the vision Cartier-Bresson was to show in his photography.

His discovery of the camera occurred, significantly enough, after he spent a year in Africa working as a hunter. Exhausted by a severe attack of blackwater fever that forced him to return home, he took a camera to the South of France and started shooting. This time, killing was not involved. But many of Cartier-Bresson's best photographs depend on his ability to stalk, wait, aim and press the trigger at precisely the right second.

Not that his art training proved irrelevant. Despite their inspired reliance on chance and the snatched moment, many of his early European pictures show a sophisticated feeling for composition. When he catches a small Roman girl at the instant of running into a rectangle of Mediterranean sunlight, all his attention might seem to be concentrated on the figure alone. But the multi-angled play of shadows around her, no less than the tilted buildings massed beside her and above, all contribute to the pictorial vitality of this carefully calculated image. Copies of Old Master paintings are included in the Royal College show, and they testify to a lifetime of learning from the art of the past.

As a photographer, though, Cartier-Bresson was equally alive to the avant-garde. Looking down a snarling staircase at Eyre's in 1932, he defined the dynamism of steps and iron railings with an eye sharpened by geometric abstraction. But he paused until a man cycled past on the cobbled street below, and his blurred figure prevents the picture from divorcing itself too radically from the everyday world. Cartier-Bresson was far too involved with humanity to become an Abstractionist. He may have delighted in the formal play of

circles, oblongs and arcs outlined by floating debris on the flooded Pont de l'Europe. But the image is dominated by a silhouette of a leaping pedestrian, his fuzzy reflection dramatically isolated in the water.

Even when people play a diminutive role in his photographs, they are far from incidental. A view of the Tuileries Gardens in 1969 seems to be given over entirely to stripped winter trees, standing respectfully in long, martial rows. But then, far away, we notice a distant couple, captured as they move across the intersection of two broad avenues. However insignificant they may seem, their presence transforms the picture.

Cartier-Bresson's ability to capture the fugitive moment and give it unforgettable permanence lies at the core of his work. Nobody is more conscious of flux, and in a

all its caginess, Cartier-Bresson shoots him against a door even more guarded and weathered than his own skin.

The most memorable portraits on view here usually show the subjects in contexts that enhance their meaning. Jean-Paul Sartre, his fur-lined coat buttoning him against a Parisian winter, looks as alone as he broods on a melancholy Existential bridge. Samuel Beckett, his hawk's eyes trained fiercely downwards, is juxtaposed with an aggressive jump pointing up at his bookshelves. Tony Hancock, crumpled and sulky, sits hunched on some steep stairs with a finger jammed childishly against his mouth. Marcel Duchamp, waving a cigar in the air, lounges roguishly beside the bicycle wheel he had nominated as a work of art more than half a century before.

Some of the portraits — Harold Macmillan and Cecil Beaton among them — are disappointingly bland and unexceptional. Maybe Cartier-Bresson was defeated by their English reserve. He abhors formality, preferring whenever possible to let people forget the presence of the camera. Then, invariably with artists as his subjects, the outcome can be magnificent. Bonnard standing in his cold studio, a scarf wound tightly round his neck, gazes glumly at the light and kneads his large, knobby hands with undisguised anxiety. He could scarcely be more at variance with the robust equanimity of Matisse, encircled by bird-cages and leaning back in a chair as he sketches the plump dove held in his grip.

Above all, though, the arch-chameleon Picasso is caught in two utterly different moods. The first, taken in 1944 when he was trapped in occupied Paris and painting his bleakest pictures, shows him in surprisingly jovial guise. Half-naked in a bedroom cluttered with clothes, primers, books and brushes, he shows off his expensive torso with shameless machismo.

In the later portrait, though, all that bravado has vanished. The octogenarian artist frowns as he stares in the direction of the lens. His dark eyes are still alert, concentrated and penetrating. Dressed in a simple white shirt, he no longer indulges in his old love of exhibitionism. Even his gaze appears, finally, to be directed inward rather than at the camera. He has the look of an old man confronting his mortality, just as he does in some of his own late self-portraits.

Picasso does not flinch, and he gives no sign of evasion. But there is anger in his eyes, as well as a dependency, his face looks slightly blurred, as if affected already by the dissolution he sees ahead of him. It is the most truthful and revealing photograph of Picasso I have ever seen, the work of a tireless and patient hunter who knows exactly when to pounce.

Europeans at the Hayward Gallery (0171-261 0127) until April 5; The 4-11s at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0055) until June 7; Line by Line at the Royal College of Art (0171-590 4444) until April 9.

He is a tireless hunter who knows exactly when to pounce

1933 aerial shot of Siena the shadows seem to move further over the piazza as we ponder this bold, dream-like image. Its air of silent expectancy suggests that he owed a debt to de Chirico's paintings of similar scenes. But figures can also be detected in the Siena picture, making their minuscule way across the emptiness. They look isolated and vulnerable enough to explain why Cartier-Bresson should admire Giacometti so much: the latter's bronze piazzas, inhabited only by a few attenuated figures walking or held spellbound, explore related areas of feeling.

Although he is not identified by name, Giacometti himself appears in the middle distance of one Hayward Gallery photograph. Caught with a raised foot, as he negotiates a narrow pathway between ancient houses at Stampa in Switzerland, he turns to acknowledge the camera's presence. Cartier-Bresson may have asked him to walk there: the composition is an impeccably calculated affair, filled with angular shadows, scything through smilt patches, and the diagonal forms of projecting timbered roofs. By glancing at the lens, Giacometti seems to be implying that he understands the photographer's intentions. And some of the swiftly executed, unpretentious pencil portraits and landscapes at the Royal College indicate that Cartier-Bresson has been influenced, in turn, by Giacometti's own spidery drawings.

The sculptor reappears in the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition, this time in images where his deeply furrowed face is explored in



The most memorable portraits usually show the subjects in contexts that enhance their meaning: thus Jean-Paul Sartre on an Existential bridge

## AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

THE young American artist Amy Adler is no relation of the psychologist Alfred Adler, but she draws on the resonances of their shared surname in the title of her first London show, *The Problem Child*. The six black-and-white portraits that make up this multi-part piece could almost be a set of illustrations from a psychological text.

Taken individually, each picture appears little more than a nostalgic portrait of adolescence. Each shows a boy engaged in the sort of pastimes that any young teenager might engage in: shooting marbles, reading a schoolbook, larking around. But seen together they raise questions. Who are these boys? What do they share? How will they develop? And is it sadness that you can see in their eyes?

There are no ready answers to be found in *The Problem Child*. A sense of displacement, of uneasy detachment, slowly gathers in the viewer. This is echoed by Adler's technique. The pictures are photographs of (now defunct) pastel drawings that

Adler made of photographs which she found in the first place. The children they show are trapped in a limbo of reproduction.

Charles Saatchi bought up this whole show on its opening night. Adler is obviously an artist to watch.

**Amy Adler: *The Problem Child* is on show at the Entwistle Gallery, 6 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 6440) until April 9.**

THE installation *Any Object in the Universe*, the thirteenth in the Tate's Art Now programme, also explores themes of identity and displacement. The artist Graham Gossin has taken his inspiration from a haunting story by Edgar Allan Poe, *A Tale of the Ragged Mountains*, in which illusion seeps inside reality and truth and hallucination become disturbingly confused.

Slipping along a narrow dimly lit corridor, the viewer enters a gloomy, echoing room. A projection fills one of the walls. It is an image of the room in which you are standing but it is empty, save for a microphone on a stand. As the

visitor moves about the sound-sensitive floor every step is electronically magnified. It reverberates, eerily, but not from where the visitor is standing: it echoes in the empty, illusory chamber. Presence is marked where there is only absence.

This is a baffling piece. For the full effect, perhaps you should go with a tap dancer to see it.

**Art Now 13: Graham Gossin is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank London SW1 (0171-837 8000) until April 26.**

AS SHE cycles around London, Sarah Holliday sees a city in a century. Wherever a building has been knocked down, she says, it leaves a trace behind, sometimes visible, sometimes just a feeling. It is this nebulous memory of lingering ghosts that she tries to distil in her watercolours.

Her delicate architectural studies, with their soft rich light and muted tones, drift between precision and abstraction. Nothing is ever fully explained. Rather, Holliday captures the moment of formation, the geometric formalism of a builder's scaffolding, the workman's plastic sheeting billowing over a facade.

Even as these paintings are completed, their subjects have changed. Something new has emerged in their place. But for any Londoner who is fascinated by the facades of the city in which they live, by the forgotten corners of scruffy streets and by the fingerprints which history leaves everywhere behind it, this exhibition will be full of discovery as well as nostalgia.

**Sarah Holliday: London Unveiled is at the New Academy Gallery, 34 Windmill Street, London W1 (0171-323 4700) until March 28.**

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON



nebulous memory of lingering ghosts: the watercolourist Sarah Holliday's painting *Old Wall, Butler's Wharf*

## Echoes from a distant war zone

### CONCERTS

by rich singing from the Philharmonia Chorus, rigorously drilled for the last time by David Hill. Some slipped into a quartet, Susan Gritton soared through the soprano solos and led a well-balanced quartet (the outstanding Ruby Philogene, Toby Spence and Neal Davies).

Bartók's *Divertimento* for strings was composed in 1940, and its slow movement is an elegant lament. Yet much of the music has Haydnian grace. Dohnányi shaped a performance that was both fluid and disciplined. He showed the same control in the

suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*. For once this score sounded like the dance music it is. That made the performance electrifying.

JOHN ALLISON

The Takács Quartet have come comparatively late to Janáček, and the excitement of their discovery is still vivid. They plan to record the composer's two quartets: their live Wignone Hall performance made one both impatient for the results and aware that the searing heat of the performance in the process of its forging may never quite be recaptured.

On Friday, they chose Janáček's last quartet, composed in 1928 just as he was finishing his dark Dostoevsky opera, *From the House of the Dead*, and only six months before his own death. The intense compassion for humanity in that opera is answered in the quartet, *Intimate Letters*, by a vibrant personal passion: that for the late-flowering love of his life, Kamila Stösslová.

Edward Duseinberre's own bright, ripe tone rose to a feverish brilliance.

That same bright leading light had sharply defined the Mozart *Hoffmeister Quartet* with which the evening had begun. After the Janáček came Beethoven's third *Razumovsky Quartet*, and an extraordinary tour de force of collaborative virtuosity. Beethoven had written over the fugue finale, as if to himself: "Make no secret of your deafness, not even in Art." And, as if fired and fortified by Janáček's great final confession, the Takács fought their way through to a most powerfully achieved vindication of the triumph of the human spirit.

HILARY FINCH

### BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available classical recordings on CD, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

VERDI'S *LA TRAVIATA* Reviewed by Michael Oliver  
VERDI'S *La Traviata* notoriously failed to please at its first performance in Venice in 1853. The frail, consumptive heroine Violetta was sung by the plump and homely Fanny Salvini-Donatelli (not Verdi's choice) and her death scene was greeted with laughter. A year later, in the same city but with a small-voiced wait of a soprano, Maria Spezia, the opera triumphed and it has remained at the centre of the repertoire ever since.

There are about 30 recordings available at present, but choice between them is not as difficult as that might suggest. First, it is the soprano's opera: if the Violetta is moving and convincing, most listeners

would be prepared to put up with a less than ideal tenor or baritone. Secondly, less than a third of the available recordings are complete: conventional cuts are still being made.

For many listeners the Violetta, incomparably moving, making every word and note come to life, is Maria Callas. Both her recordings are live and in poor-quality sound. The better of the two is of a performance in Lisbon in 1953. The finest post-Callas Violetta is probably Ileana Cotrubas, who recorded the role with ideal colleagues

(Plácido Domingo and Sherrill Milnes) under the vivid and sensitive direction of Carlos Kleiber in 1977. For a complete recording, choice lies between Riccardo Muti's first recording and Sir Georg Solti's. Solti and today's reigning Violetta, Angela Gheorghiu, deliver a subtle and moving performance. But Muti's 1982 recording has a more consistently fine cast (Renata Scotti, Alfredo Kraus and Renato Bruson) and is even more subtly responsive to Verdi's instructions (EMI CDS 7 47538-8-SIS, £32.99).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to: FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (Danz): Schumann's *Humoreske in B flat, Op 20*

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# Have wheels, will trouble.



Road rage: Lizzy McInerney and Lloyd Hutchinson steer Steve Waters's powerful new play along life's highways

Since last May nothing that's new can be left for us to decide for ourselves but must have a great big NEW stuck in front of it. Thus for Jenny Topper's current *New Directions* season at the Hampstead Theatre even one reference to its novelty is not enough; there has to be a ringing subtitle, "New Ideas, New Plays, New Perspectives".

Some of her choices have been coolly received but the latest satisfies all the requirements. Its author, Steve Waters, has never before had a play professionally produced in London, and the entire

action occurs in the front seats of cars criss-crossing England. So this is new both for idea, direction, and perspective, though the driving is all done by night, and mostly by motorway. "I'll take a road with an M in it," says Kathy, a young barrister on the run from motherhood, wifehood and possibly lifehood.

The play opens as she drives westward, managing not to fall asleep at the wheel by articulating a cataract of thoughts about husband, young baby, discontent, discontent with being discontented, all delivered by Lizzy McInerney in a husky, crackling voice to which it would have gone on listening all night. Not strangled, exactly, but with a gasp below the breath as though someone has been strangling her for some time and has just left off. Meanwhile dogged husband Peter (Lloyd Hutchinson) has driven back from his Eurojop in Brussels and is making for the Suffolk coast of his childhood. He is giving a lift to a teenage girl (Jo Durham), armed with

a knife but pitifully naive, and where Kathy's revelations come in monologue, his are drawn from him by this degraded innocent.

Waters must surely be an experienced driver because his perception of how people burble away to themselves at the wheel is so acute and entertaining. I never grasped why

both their cars should be left-hand drive, unless to distinguish present from past journeys, when a younger Kathy and Peter are in a car together. Here the driving wheel is on the usual side but it is a small advantage for a large distraction.

The intention may be to contrast an English past with a European present. Waters's recreation of early 1980s Thatcherbaby talk is uncommonly shrewd, and so could also connect with the characters' hands-off, hearts-on feeling for their parents.

This aspect doesn't fully convince but there is so much to appreciate elsewhere, and for a play where the cast stays

## Pregnant and heavy

David BAC, SW11

EVER since Demi Moore appeared naked and with child on the cover of *Vanity Fair*, exposing one's pregnancy in public has become fashionable. But it is still a startling sight on stage, given the nightly stream of acting. Steve Todd's recent star of Tony Merchant's TV drama *Holding On*, not only plays Elinor, a heavily pregnant woman, she is seven months gone herself.

This is brave acting in a comic psychodrama by Maureen Chadwick in which Todd's Elinor is harassed, intimidated and finally terrorised by her middle-aged cleaning lady, Eileen.

Somewhere between the sponge fingers and the vacuuming, the wheels have come off Elinor's sanity. She arrives two hours earlier than usual with some peculiar ideas about dust. Bumholes produce the most dust, she insists, that is why surgeons wear their trousers down their boots. It is as if this strange but true fact had finally tipped her over the edge. It is enough to prompt an irritated, unstable Elinor to

## Slav laboured

James Christopher

It is here that Barbara Ewing's superbly uninged Eileen takes on all the trappings of the Annie Wilkes character in Stephen King's novel *Misery*. But rather than shiver when Eileen turns the key in the bedroom lock and takes a knife out of her pocket, our sympathy is entirely with the patronised cleaner for the simple reason that Todd's spott and peevish Elinor displays the social skills of a Millwall supporter.

What makes this manipulation so enjoyable is the quirky comedy Chadwick extracts from the situation. When Elinor's mother arrives like a paunchy divorcee, a Noel Coward play, there is a wonderful stretch where Eileen's feigned innocence is at work.

At work, Elinor is at work, a mother of the scenario until, slightly tipsy on her own power, Eileen decides to enlighten Janet Jeffery's Eveline herself.

Bernadette Roberts's creamy bedroom set would have tickled Pablo Picasso. Cut into a sort of five-sided cake slice and tipped at an angle, it neatly suggests a sanatorium environment with an unhealthy twist. Director Maggie Norris conjures lovely clashing performances from her cast. Rarely are characters so cleverly trapped by their own self-obsessions.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## Slav laboured

Lorraine McGowan makes of her

THERE are two entirely unrelated tempers with the same exotic name haunting the London fringe. James Christopher writes: So, Wilson's *Sabina* is, curiously, an answer to Jung at the Bush, while Chris Dolan's *Sabina* is seducing her Glaswegian landlord, Matthew, at the Pleasance.

In Dolan's play, however, Sabina is a deception. Matthew does not realise that the Czech dissident he falls madly in love with is in fact boring old Sandra Hamilton from down the road. Nor that he is the subject of a bet between Sandra and her flatmate, Tereza, a real Czech dissident about how far he will fall. It is a clever moral experiment, conducted in a Glasgow flat on the eve of the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

Life is infinitely more exciting, and oddly real, for Sandra when she slips on her little red dress and plays the romantic freedom fighter, Sabina Vasiliev. What is slightly disappointing is the hamfisted caricature that

## Slav laboured

Lorraine McGowan makes of her

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### LONDON

**KUAPP'S LAST TAPE:** Edward Peinemann gives new performance, only of Beck's 1981 drama of Jewish doctors and their Pils, Barrow, Cornwall, St. St. EC2 0171-238 8891. Tonight 8pm and 10pm, tomorrow, 2pm and 8pm, March 21, 12.30pm, March 23, 8pm, April 1, 6pm and 8pm, April 4, 12.30pm.

**CHAMBER MUSIC:** A (comradely) double-act can be enjoyed tonight at the Polish Chamber Music, giving a concert of 18th-century Continental music featuring works by Mozart, Vienna and Passerini. St. John's, Smith Square, SW1 0171-222 1661. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**TALLIS SCHOLARS:** The community choir of Tallis School, giving a concert of 16th-century Continental music featuring works by Mozart, Vienna and Passerini. St. John's, Smith Square, SW1 0171-222 1661. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**WAITING FOR GODOT:** The Fife Hall Company brings back, responding to the 10th anniversary, now with Alan Doble, Julian Glover, Terence Rigby and Susan Riggall. Piccadilly Theatre, Dorset Street, W1 0171-389 1240. Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat, mid-week (day varies), 2.30pm, Sat, 3pm. From tonight in repertoire with *The Merchant of Venice*.

**ELSEWHERE**

**EDINBURGH:** A (comradely) double-act can be enjoyed tonight at the Polish Chamber Music, giving a concert of 18th-century Continental music featuring works by Mozart, Vienna and Passerini. St. John's, Smith Square, SW1 0171-222 1661. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**AMY'S VIEW:** Judi Dench and Samantha Bond play mother and daughter in David Hare's moving drama of love, ambition, resentment and the hazards of contemporary life. Cast unchanged from the National Theatre production. Aldwych, WC2 0171-416 6033. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** Disney's 1991 turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Anne Eggleston and Aladdin Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington. Debutante, Tottenham Court Road, W1 0171-416 6033. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE DAY I STOOD STILL:** Impressive new New York play about the paralyzing effect of unrequited love. Neil Patrick Harris as the inventor of love. National (Columbia), South Bank, SE1 0171-422 3000. Today, Thur, 7.30pm, mat Thur, 2.30pm. In repertoire.

**THE DEAD MONKEY:** Dawn "Hutch" Soul plays the Colombian thriller in a revival of Nick Carter's bizarre comedy of the love between a man, a woman and a monkey. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW2 0171-704 0022. Tue, 8pm, Sat, 2pm and Sun, 3.30pm.

**HENRY VIII:** Paul Julian, Jane Lapinske, Ian Hogg in longish but strongly played and carefully directed by Stephen Poulakis. Last play, Young Vic, 86 The Cut, SE1 0171-253 5353. Tonight, Thur, 7.15pm, mat Thur, 3pm. In repertoire.

**NEW RELEASES**

**UN AIR DE FAMILLE (15):** Agnès Varda French comedy-drama about a squabbling family gathered for a birthday. Centre Cinéma, Jean-Pierre Laroche, Agnès Varda and Jean-Pierre Laroche. Centre Cinéma, 0171-389 1730.

**BENT (15):** Awarded mention of Martin Scorsese's play about persecution of gays in Nazi Germany. With Chris O'Connell and John Gielgud, directed by Scorsese. Centre Cinéma, 0171-389 1730.

**GOOD WILL HUNTING (15):** Superb film about a young man who is a genius but is troubled by his past. With Matt Damon and Robin Williams. Centre Cinéma, 0171-389 1730.

**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (15):** Unhappy ending about a woman who is a genius but is troubled by her past. With Rachel Watson and Anthony Hopkins. Centre Cinéma, 0171-389 1730.

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Donald Hutera meets New York choreographer Bill T. Jones as he prepares for a London season. Plus, Richard Alston reviewed

## Time to tell a different story

Words roll out of Bill T. Jones's mouth the way movement rolls off his body: silky smooth, full of graceful, quirky precision and flashes of force. Since he began making dances in the early 1970s, the charismatic American choreographer has fashioned a career out of using speech and, especially, flesh to give his personal take on what it means to be alive.

"We Set Out Early..." Jones slowly pronounces the title of his latest full-length dance, which comes to the Peacock Theatre next week. "Visibility Was Poor. It sounds like the beginning of a novel, doesn't it?"

It is a bitterly cold January night in Bologna, Italy, the kind of weather conducive to curling up in a warm place with a good book. Although Jones, 47, is meant to be resting backstage before his company's performance at the Arena del Sole, he is, as ever, prepared to talk. Patient, yet zealous, he sounds like a cross between a lecturer, a storyteller and a preacher.

"I chose a narrative title as a kind of tease," Jones says with a sly grin. "Yes, there had been times in the past when I have done monologues, had characters, made references to literature. And in dance, there's always a story. But it doesn't have to proceed in a linear fashion."

"This piece proceeds by the laws of dance. It's almost purely dance material. It's about rhythm, space, design, and the way the body organises itself."

It wasn't such formalist impulses that drew widespread attention to Jones's two previous full-length shows. Made in 1990, *Last Supper At Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land* was a controversial and deliberately fragmented saga of racism, sexuality and faith that found inspiration in, among others, Leonardo da Vinci, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Martin Luther King. Combining the sweep of opera with the impact of political statement, it was a cascade of theatrically powerful images of humiliation.

sacrifice, oppression and, ultimately, redemption. The Vatican was outraged.

Jones's 1994 follow-up, *Still/Here*, kick-started one of the decade's most virulent artistic debates. Culled from workshops conducted with people coping with life-threatening illnesses, the two-part production maintained a beautifully mature, clear-eyed balance between the spiritual and the corporeal.

Not that influential American dance critic Arlene Croce saw it that way. In fact, she didn't see it at all. Instead, in a blistering essay in *The New Yorker* magazine, Croce branded Jones's work "victim art", and judged it impossible to review because of the degree to which it begged her sympathy.

While the criticism hurt and offended Jones, it didn't hamper his restless creativity. He makes dances now with the same urgency and depth of feeling that have marked his work ever since the AIDS-related death of his lover, the dancer-choreographer Arnie Zane, ten years ago. Jones is probably aware that, with its air of abstract mystery and seamless choreographic eclecticism, *We Set Out Early...* is unlikely to inspire the clamour its predecessors did. But for him it is the biggest step yet in a new aesthetic direction.

"The works of the past few years have been about things easy to talk about outside the dance," he says. "The challenge of facing mortality, identity issues: these are things you could have a lively discussion about with almost anyone."

The shift away from in-your-face polemics has been gradual. "I was thinking about making another big work and went through my catalogue of ideas to be developed. Some are fragments of movement, some musical ideas, others decor notions. What I had was a title based in 'we', something epic that suggests a very open-ended sense of a journey."

It was music that offered structure and itinerary. *We Set Out Early...* is an evocative, though purposefully non-specific, trip through the

moods and upheavals of the 20th century. It segues from 1917 (via a suite version of Igor Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*) to the mid-1950s (a selection of three John Cage scores for piano, voice and silence) to 1991 (a turbulently lyrical, cathartic string symphony by Latvian composer Peteris Vaskis). Robert Wierzel's sensitive lighting and emblematic set-pieces by Jones's partner of five years, Eijon Amelien, also contribute to the piece's strong, though enigmatic atmosphere.

"I'm not so interested in naturalism right now," Jones admits. "I'm making a brand of theatre which invites you in to dream, to contemplate, to feel emotion. To do that I am relying less on scenario. The theme is in the movement, the rhythm of the hips, the shoulders, the way you stand and who stands with you."

Jones's current preferred working method entails putting on music in the studio and videotaping his improvisations — "one-man marathons," he calls them. "You can get very detailed rhythmic sequences that you never would if you were thinking about it. And you don't have to remember it, because the camera captures it all."

Afterwards, in what Jones hails as a revolutionary approach to his choreography, he and the rehearsal director, Janet Wong, extract the movement they feel works best and filter it through the dancers' bodies and sensibilities. "But recreating it can be hard. You find you had five things going on in the body at once. Which comes first? It's not always clear."

"I am very much into a — I don't want to say 'cerebral' approach, but I do think more about how I move than in the past, and about the level of metaphor and social stuff on the stage. I make more choices about all of that, so that in the end the work can suggest a version of us — of a 'we'."

© The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company is at the Peacock Theatre, London (0171-314 8800), March 17-21



Bill T. Jones: "I'm making a brand of theatre which invites you in to dream, to contemplate, to feel emotion"

## Sketches twinned with wit

OWEN EVANS and Carl Minns, known collectively as the Nimmo Twins, do cruel things to words. They mock phraseology and torture intonation for kicks. In their world of fast-moving sketch comedy, nothing is sacred: even the litany of the shipping forecast becomes the account of a man's night out with his wife, and their "moderate to poor" sexual activity.

Most of the Nimmo Twins sketches operate by taking a very distinctive style of communication and placing it in an inappropriate context. Thus we have three sets of couples who take their work home with them. For the local radio advertising couple, supper is "the taste of New Delhi in front of your

### COMEDY

#### The Nimmo Twins Hen and Chickens, N1

telly; the newsreaders get "PLO: peas, leeks and onions; led by Asda Marrowfat"; and the MPs are too busy arguing about the first reading of the bills to eat anything at all. Eventually Mrs MP is questioned about "her relationship with the small businessman". Mrs Local Radio Advertiser extols the virtues of the hunky young builder next door with whom "the customer always comes first", and Mrs Newsreader announces that she is "screwed at ten, 7.20 and a quarter to nine".

All three scenarios are beautifully sustained, but the fact that there are three of them points to a basic problem with the Nimmos' current show: they have hit on such a brilliant technique that they tend to overuse it. Not only do we have a football commentator working for the Cambridge Examination Board, giving the results for Eton v Hackney Grammar, we also have commentators analysing the match at Dunstable Castle. As the occasional joke or character reappears, the material wears a little thin. It is a shame to cavil, because when the Nimmo Twins hit the mark, they do so with genius; without doubt they are on the brink of something very exciting indeed. At their best, such as the sketch of the zoologist examining the activity at a "... and Flirkin" pub, they not only indulge their brilliant language skills, but also pass well-observed comment on the clichés of contemporary life. Even when presenting groan-worthy puns, their intelligence shines through. Radio 4 should snap them up.

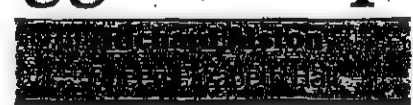
HETTIE JUDAH

## Richly suggestive, purely told

Some choreographers need a plot, some need a prop, and still others need a platform for psychoanalysis and politicking. But all Richard Alston needs is a good score and a great group of dancers to get him going. And at the Queen Elizabeth Hall last week he had both.

The music was *Red Run*, nine songs for 11 musicians, written in 1988 by Heiner Goebbels for the choreographer Amanda Miller. Alston took the shorter, tighter concert version as his chosen score when he was commissioned to make a new piece for the 1998 Holland Dance Festival. Its performances on the South Bank marked its British premiere.

In a programme note Alston describes the music thus: "Harsh sometimes aggressive bursts of upbeat jazz rhythm get repeatedly pushed aside by a sense of foreboding or by keening lament." That is just the kind of rich suggestiveness Alston loves, a place where shadows and secrets lie in wait.



*Red Run* the dance is not a literal realisation of the music, but an all-embracing atmosphere that absorbs the spirit and mood of Goebbels's electro-acoustic score. The choreography sets up a garrulous dialogue with the music, posing tantalising questions and devising playful and frantic answers.

At times the six dancers seem to be cutting their way through a dense undergrowth, or wading heavily through a great soup of mist. But then the music changes, and a vivacious violin sets the dance off into spry phrases, or a laid-back trumpet prompts the dancers to grind to a halt. Long drawn-out phrases are suddenly stopped dead, movement is thinned out and then pumped up in size and speed. This is dance in its purest sense: bodies without overtones, partnerships without

agendas, incidents without context. Who needs props and plots when you can have choreography as good as this?

Thanks to the South Bank's continuing relationship with the London Sinfonietta, the dancers — and the audience — had the benefit of hearing the Goebbels score played live. Alston and the Sinfonietta have worked together before — on a Birnside project in 1990 — and it is a marriage made in heaven. The Sinfonietta, conducted by Nicholas Kok, played brilliantly. And when *Red Run* was followed by *Rumours, Visions*, and all we got was a recording of Britten's *Les Illuminations*, it became all the more obvious what a tremendous impact live music has on dance.

Alston launched his troupe in 1994 and it has taken three seasons for the dancers to find themselves in his choreography. They now look more fluid and muscular than ever. Alston must be pleased.

DEBRA CRAINE

## Launching no more offensives

### POP

London concerts in ten years — with a different celebrity DJ for each show. On Saturday it was the turn of Pulp singer Jarvis Cocker, whose stage moves owe at least something to Vega's exaggerated sense of camp.

The passing years, and vari-

ous advances in technology, seem to have made little difference to Suicide. The duo were dressed, as always, in black — Vega's features obscured by matching shades, his customary beret and a haze of cigarette smoke — and it was easy to see why their deafening racket might once have been deemed so offensive. This time round, though, there was hushed reverence for the new material and shouts of recognition for their debut

1978 album *Suicide* which is being reissued this week.

The climax of their 45-minute set was *Jukebox Baby*, where Vega became the human jukebox of the title by incorporating snippets of 7 & 7 The Mysterians' 96 Tears, the Stooges' I Wanna Be Your Dog and the Velvet Underground's Sister Ray.

"We are family," he said at the end, his arms wide open to embrace the crowd. They returned to play their signature tune *Ghost Rider* before a black curtain fell and Jarvis Cocker, cued up Sano & Johnny's *Sleep Walk* — an old record which, much like *Suicide*, is now considered a classic.

ANN SCANLON

an uplifting evening in which egos, petty jealousies and political rivalries were set aside in the interests of music that transcended all barriers.

Khumalo's Zulu lullaby *Tula* was augmented by Hanitra's gentle Malagasy chants. Sangare's song of homesickness, *Andia*, was made more poignant by the addition of the gentle sway of township jazz. Nyolo's tribal capella was enhanced by the coexistence of voices from three other cultures.

Rarely can such diverse artists have created such a warm and generous empathy. This was a vivid and unique celebration of pan-African magic.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

## Chemistry sets

additionally appropriate.

Oumou Sangare from landlocked Mali is West Africa's biggest female star. Hanitra, Rasoanaivo comes from Madagascar and leads the band *Tarika*. Sally Nyolo is from Cameroon, and used to sing with Zap Mama before embarking on a solo career. The South African diva Sibongile Khumalo hails from the Soweto township.

Western attitudes tend to group African cultures together, and indeed as women all four share a common struggle against patriarchal societies. Yet this evening also showcased backgrounds and expe-



periences as richly varied as you would find among any similar group of European women drawn from, say, Turkey, Spain, Sweden and Ireland. The organisers had expected that all four would perform separate sets and then come together for a final celebration of collective unity. It didn't work out like that. Such was the chemistry between the four that they decided to pool their talents for virtually the entire two-hour show. The result was

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THE TIMES

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Orson Welles and Laurence Olivier feature in a recreation of *Beau Geste*. Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert re-enact their film roles in the romantic comedy *It Happened One Night*. Also in the series are *Sunset Boulevard*, with Gloria Swanson and William Holden, and the classic western, *Shane*, with Alan Ladd and Van Heflin in their original film roles.

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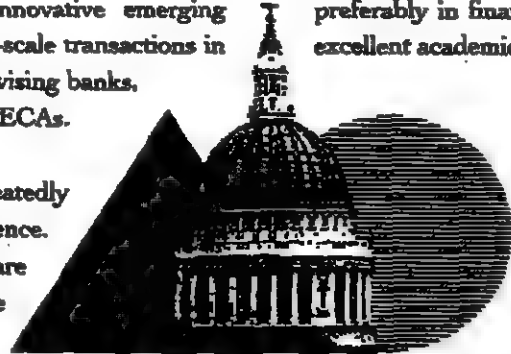
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## LAW

● COMPUTER EVIDENCE 43  
● LAW REPORT 22

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, recalls a legal master at work in a famous obscenity trial

## Thumbs up for a great act

The outcome of a criminal trial does, occasionally, turn on the barrister's performance. The most memorable example I witnessed came in Court No 1 at the Old Bailey during the trial of a theatre director on the charge of procuring an act of gross indecency.

His crime was to have directed Howard Brenton's *The Romans in Britain* at the National Theatre (in 1980). Mary Whitehouse sent her solicitor to collect evidence, and when the Attorney-General refused to act, she privately prosecuted Michael Bogdanov, the play's director. Jeremy Hutchinson, QC, led me in the National's defence.

Our task was not easy. The "gross indecency" law — Section 13 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 — applies only to males, usually those who masturbate in "public places" such as parks or toilets. But for the purposes of this statute, the National Theatre was no different from a public toilet (architecturally, it resembles one) and Michael Bogdanov was, provisionally, a male (had the play been directed by Michelle Bogdanov, the case could not have been brought).

The act was of course "indecent" — that was the point. In Brenton's sprawling and profoundly moral canvas about the barbarity of ethnic conflict, did not allow the jury to see the play, or any filmed re-enactment of it, or even to read the script. All they would be permitted to hear, live in evidence, was the prosecution's eyewitness.

This was Mrs Whitehouse's solicitor, who swore that he had observed from his seat in the Olivier Theatre an actor dressed as a Roman soldier take off his tunic, hold his penis in his hand with the tip protruding, walk across the stage and place the said tip against the buttocks of an actor playing a Druid.

The trial started in Court 1, the Old Bailey's equivalent of the Olivier auditorium. The judge's entrance was accompanied by the traditional extras — gowned aldermen carrying the sword and the mace. There were a lot of journalists, lured by the promise of druidic

buggery, and "resting" barristers curious to observe a celebrated trial. The audience which mattered was the jury.

We had challenged a few jurors with tabloids under their arms: although, as Shakespeare said, there's no art to tell the mind's construction from the face, you do get some idea of the mind if the nose is in *The Sun*.

The prosecution called its star witness: Mary Whitehouse's solicitor, Mr Graham Ross-Cornes, who swore he had seen the actor's penis, hand-held and erect. He was plainly a truthful witness, and our problem was how to shake his recollection.

It was important to discover where he was sitting, so I had brought a seating plan of the auditorium. Jeremy was reluctant to inquire: counsel hate asking questions to which they do not know (or at least strongly suspect) the answer, and it stood to reason that anyone collecting eyewitness evidence against a play would sit in the front row.

Nervously, he beckoned the usher to take the plan over to the witness. "Now, Mr Ross-Cornes, will you please mark on this seating plan exactly where you were sitting when you think you saw the tip of the third soldier's erect penis?"

We held our collective breath, as the witness silently marked the spot and the usher slowly carried this crucial evidence back to Jeremy. He choked back an exclamation of joy. Mrs Whitehouse had sat her solicitors in the gods.

"The back row! You sat in the back row! You got to this theatre, knowing your task is to collect evidence for a very serious prosecution of my client, a man who has never committed a single offence in his life, on a very nasty charge, and you sit in the back row!"

Jeremy was wonderful, his high-pitched, Bloomsbury voice rising in mock horror, denoting little explosions of ridicule. I passed him some ammunition, a note from Peter Hall — the back row of the Olivier is 90 yards from the stage. "Ninety yards from the stage! Did you know it was 90 yards from the stage? Do you —



Under occupation: Druids face their would-be masters in *The Romans in Britain*

can you — swear on oath to the Lordship and to the jury that you are certain you saw the tip of a penis from a distance of 90 yards from the stage?"

Mr Ross-Cornes was shaken, but not stirred. That was achieved by the most daring piece of impromptu cross-examination I have ever witnessed.

"Do you go to the theatre much, Mr Ross-Cornes?" Jeremy inquired sweetly. The witness confirms that he does go to the theatre, but not much. "I go to pantomimes and such like."

Q: "You know that theatre is the art of illusion?" A: "If you say so, Lord Hutchinson."

Q: "And, as part of that illusion, actors use physical gestures to convey impressions to an audience?"

A: "Yes, I would accept that."

Q: "And from the back row, 90 yards from the stage, you can be certain that what you saw was the tip of the actor's penis?"

A: "Well, if you put it that way, I can't be absolutely certain. But what else could it have been?"

There is a wise adage for

witnesses: never ask counsel a question. Jeremy stood to his full height, 6ft 3in in his wig, and pushing aside his lectern with his left hand, he held out towards the jury his clenched right fist.

"What you saw, I suggest, was the tip of the actor's thumb..." (he slowly raised his right thumb, until it stood erect, protruding an inch from his fist) "as he held his fist over his groin — like this."

Jeremy flung open his silk gown with his left hand while placing his right fist, thumb erect, over his own groin. It was a coup de théâtre more dramatic than any our client had achieved in *The Romans in Britain*. The jurors stared transfixedly at the QC's simulated erection. The witness opened and closed his mouth.

At last he rallied: "I can't see clearly, Lord Hutchinson. Your gown is in the way. Jeremy swivelled in his direction, holding the pose. Eventually, the crestfallen Mr Ross-Cornes had to admit that yes, he may have been mistaken. He could not rule out the possibility that it might, indeed, have been a thumb he had described from

the back row of the gods. Soon afterwards, the prosecution was withdrawn, with costs (which would pay for two new productions) awarded to the National Theatre.

The Justice Game has rules which in this case, by excluding all evidence of artistic purpose or merit, stacked the odds heavily against the defence. The scales were tipped back by a "thumbs up" defence advanced by a QC who had two qualities I suspect are essential in a great advocate: forensic courage, and an instinctive sense of mischief.

● This is an edited extract from *The Justice Game* (Chatto & Windus, £20) by Geoffrey Robertson, QC.

## Let the women in on the gossip

In the biggest robing room controversy since a county court judge fined a barrister for smoking there in 1925, a number of women barristers are submitting that the robing rooms at the Royal Courts of Justice in London should be made unisex. Such robing room advocacy deserves the support of all lawyers.

There are currently three robing rooms for men and one for women. They contain lockers (at an annual cost of £135, plus VAT), telephones and lavatories, as well as space for barristers to put on their working clothes and transform themselves into advocates. Cleopatra, preparing for death, says to her attendant, Iras: "Give me my robe, put on my crown: I have immortal longings in me." Lawyers (some with their clerks performing the supporting role of Iras) take out their robes and put on their wigs, and then go off to court hoping to make immortal submissions — or at least submissions that will not hasten the death of their clients' case.

But the robing room is not simply a place in which lawyers dress for work. Legal business may be done there.

An extreme example concerns a young, penniless barrister, Edward Marshall Hall, who sat gloomily in the robing room at the Old Bailey in 1884. According to Marshall Hall's biographer, Edward Marjoribanks, "a busy junior in a great hurry rushed in with a large brief," saw the young barrister and asked him to assist. Marshall Hall obtained a tenancy in chambers as a result, and went on to find fame and fortune as the leading criminal advocate of his generation.

On a more regular basis, the robing room is where lawyers about to go into court learn the latest gossip about their colleagues and the judiciary. Barristers tentatively explore whether the interests of their respective clients might be better served by a compromise than by subjecting their dispute to trial by ordeal before one of Her Majesty's judges.

If negotiation cannot resolve the matter, then counsel warm up for the hearing by robing room advocacy to try out possible submissions, many of which are then wisely left on the robing room floor rather than used in court.

All of these discussions are, as lawyers say, without prejudice. On one celebrated occasion, a barrister who threatened to tell the judge about information that he had been given in confidence in the robing room was warned that he would receive a punch on the nose, which speedily persuaded him to abandon any thought of so fundamental a breach of legal ethics.

Outsiders enter this legal world at their

peril. At the Old Bailey in 1992, a solicitor's clerk was convicted of stealing a barrister's wig and was conditionally discharged for three years and ordered to pay £200 costs.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, explains that his new book, *The Justice Game* (Chatto & Windus, £20, an excerpt is printed at left), is "a view from the robing room, a place as important as the jury room and the police canteen in the hidden culture of the English adversarial system". In providing access to one of the inner sanctums of the legal world, it is no more sensible to segregate barristers by sex than it would be to segregate them by race.

There are no privacy and decency considerations raised by putting on wigs, gowns and court collars. On the rare occasions when barristers change their shirts in the robing room, they expose themselves to little more than ridicule. As Michael Belfoff, QC, inquired in about 1980 when a well-fed silk (who had better remain nameless) took off his shirt in the (unisex) robing room at the Privy Council: "Can Muhammad Ali come back for the fourth time?"

Indeed, a large proportion of the robing rooms in English courts, as well as the *salles des avocats* in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, are already unisex without causing problems. If male and female barristers can dress together in the robing room of the House of Lords, it is impossible to understand why they cannot do so in the Royal Courts of Justice.

Advocates for reform have to acknowledge that unisex robing rooms offer the potential for mischief. Last week the Bar Council fined a male barrister

£500 for sexual harassment of his female pupil. She had complained that when she asked if there was any work she could do for her pupil master, he had replied that he would like to "take her over the couch in the robing room".

The Bar Council was not persuaded by the barrister's defence that the robing room at the Guildford Crown Court "is small, with people coming in and out all the time, and has a large plate-glass window facing the car park".

The robing rooms at the Royal Courts of Justice lack a large window facing a car park. But, even so, reform is long overdue. The presence of women may also have the incidental advantage of encouraging men to clean up the mess they tend to leave behind, although (in the case of some female advocates) the language to be heard may become less clean.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

## Look who's flouting the Bar code

THE chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, at 11 Kings Bench Walk, is flouting the Bar code of conduct — and that's official. The sin of the chambers is to describe itself as a "leading set".

The latest issue of Bar News contains a warning from the Bar Council's professional conduct and complaints committee that barristers are forbidden both from making comparisons with other barristers and from making statements about "the quality of their work, the size or success of their practice or their success rate". Bar News concludes: "Statements such as 'a leading set' involves comparisons and therefore fall foul of the code of conduct."

Lord Irvine's set is one of many whose Websites contain the offending words.

### Paternity change?

THE PROSPECT of greater rights for unmarried fathers is canvassed in a consultation paper published by the Lord

Chancellor's Department this week. It asks whether there should be changes to the law on how the courts in England and Wales determine paternity.

It also asks whether it is right to make it easier for unmarried fathers to acquire parental responsibility for their children, subject to safeguards, and secondly, whether automatic parental responsibility should be limited to certain categories of unmarried fathers, such as those who register a child's birth jointly with the mother.

Under the Children Act 1989, unmarried fathers can acquire parental responsibility by going to court or making an agreement with the child's mother. But they do not have automatic parental responsibility because of the need, it was thought, to protect vulnerable unmarried mothers and those in violent relationships.

● The Lord Chancellor will this week present the prizes in the Times Law Awards competition held with One Essex Court chambers. The winning entry will be published in these pages next week.

Jury danger

RESEARCH into how juries conduct their work looks a long way off.

In view of the Government's recent consultation paper on whether juries should be scrapped in fraud cases, Lord Borrie, QC, former Director-General of Fair Trading, asked the Government whether it would not be better to lift the ban on jury

research and to find out how juries reached verdicts before deciding to scrap the jury system altogether.

But the traditional opposition among barristers to such research persists. Lord Hooper, QC, said during the debate that this would be a dangerous course because it would involve inquiring into a jury's judgment, which was "independent and authoritative". Lord Irvine said he was conscious of the argument that jury service was burdensome enough without jurors being "interrogated about the ebb and flow of their deliberations in the jury room".

A new unity

SOUTH AFRICA'S lawyers of all races will be united into a single profession for the first time later this month with the creation of a new Law Society of South Africa.

The society is the product of a merger between South Africa's white-dominated provincial Law Societies and the Black Lawyers' Association and National Association of Democratic Lawyers.

The new body's constitution contains a commitment to strive towards building a "non-racial, non-sexist organisation".

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For further information and an application pack, please send a postcard quoting reference CP002/98, together with your name and address to: CPS Yorkshire, Area Personnel Office, 6th Floor, Ryedale Building, 60 Piccadilly, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 1NS.

Application forms are available until 10.00 on Friday 27 March 1998. Completed forms must be received by 4pm Friday 3 April 1998. Interviews are likely to be held week commencing 27 April 1998.

The Crown Prosecution Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified eligible people regardless of sex, race and disability.

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There is a growing trend in US courts for computer-generated evidence, says Victoria McKee



## A revolution waiting to happen here

Are computers poised to supplant the importance of live witnesses and eloquent advocacy? Experts claim that just three minutes of computer animation can influence a jury more than half an hour of brilliant oratory. "Demonstrative evidence," as it is known, is big business in America.

Demonstrative evidence is most commonly used in civil cases in which complex concepts have to be clarified for juries. It can also be useful in criminal trials. This week's appeal in Boston, Massachusetts, against the conviction of Louise Woodward, the English au pair, is exactly the kind of trial in which sophisticated computer animations could be used.

Deanne Siemer, a Washington-based lawyer and the author of *Tangible Evidence* — the third edition of which was recently published by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in the US — believes that computer graphics could have been used to demonstrate the effects of shaking on a baby's brain.

She says: "If the jury could have pictured the baby's skull, it would have been very useful." Richard Susskind, professor of law, an adviser to Lord Woolf on his civil justice reforms and a consultant on computers and the courts, adds: "It occurred to me at the time that the use of graphics would have presented more powerful images." And who knows what would have happened in the O.J. Simpson trial had computer animation shown whether his hand fitted into the glove, or his feet the Bruno Magli shoes?

Ms Siemer specialises in "long, difficult civil cases involving intellectual properties and slippery issues about complicated mechanisms that are difficult to explain in words". Hence, she began to develop

demonstrative evidence — evidence that transcends the written and spoken word still prevalent in British courts.

She says: "I came to London a couple of years ago to speak at a judges' conference on technology and the law. I brought all my American white-bang things — my touch-screens, my voice-activation and my computer animations — and a judge put up his hand and said that the real problem was when they introduced copiers. How do you deal with that?"

Professor Susskind, the author of *The Future of Law*, soon to be out in paperback (OUP, £13.99), says: "The main difference between the US and UK is often cultural rather than technical. But in the future it is unlikely that documents before courts here will be pure text... they will be multimedia. I think the judiciary here is now open to the use of technology — almost half use computers."

Julie Campbell, who runs Legal Video in Boston, Massachusetts, emphasises the importance of demonstrative evidence being produced by companies such as

hers that understand the rules of evidence, rather than by advertising or computer graphics companies, as is sometimes the case.

"It has to be objective," she says. "Ours is one of a handful of reputable specialist firms. Some people try to get their demonstrative evidence from people who make wedding videos."

Ms Campbell can testify in court about the objectivity of her company's work, which is carefully designed to reflect the reality of the situation rather than a client's whim. "If we're asked to do, say, a video or animated reconstruction of an accident and it doesn't turn out the way our client wants it to, that's too bad," she says. "He doesn't have to show it in court, but we won't twist the truth."

Yet she specialises in heartrending "day in the life" videos of personal injury cases such as that of Eugene Doran, a healthy man until he was paralysed while sitting in a barber's chair by a nail from a nail

gun being used by a contractor on the other side of the wall. In 1988 he won a record \$15.3 million (about £10 million), largely because of the powerful evidence Ms Campbell produced.

Ms Siemer says: "If you have a really good orator (sic) versus a dreadful one, you can level the playing field with demonstrative evidence. It can succeed against the slickest advocate." But if you have a slick advocate such as Barry Scheck — who appeared in the Simpson and Woodward trials — using state-of-the-art animations, where will that lead?

"God help us if lawyers like Barry Scheck start producing demonstrative evidence," says Ms Campbell. Ms Siemer looks forward to "duels between animations — with the animation being a witness in itself". She revels in the idea of "cross-examining" a computer animation.

"You have to get the animation from the other side, then present your case through their animation — melding your files with their files while cross-examining," she says, enthusiastically. "It's an emerging field, and must be dealt with correctly, according to rules of evidence."

"Normally," she says, "when you have duelling experts, the jurors do not have the technical expertise to decide between them, so they go for who they like the best or who they think the judge likes the best. With animations, they think they're making up their own minds — and that is extremely powerful."

For enthusiasts and those who fear that the truth may get lost somewhere along the way, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy is holding a Courtroom of the Future conference at William and Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia, in September. Details: NITIA, 1603 North Ironwood, South Bend, Indiana, USA 46635.

## Making sense of the damages for disaster

When relatives of those killed or injured in the Hillsborough football stadium in 1989 sued Yorkshire police for the shock they had suffered, it led to fresh guidelines on when a person can claim damages caused by someone's negligence.

In what became the leading case of *Alcock v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police*, the House of Lords rejected the relatives' claims but specified the circumstances as to when people could claim.

First, a close tie of love and affection with the person killed or injured. Secondly, closeness to the accident in time and space. Thirdly, direct perception of the accident rather than, for example, hearing about it from a friend. It was further recognised that special, more lenient, principles apply to rescuers.

In the Hillsborough litigation this meant that some relatives at the stadium who suffered psychiatric illness were able to obtain damages, as were police officers who carried out rescue work. But relatives who saw the tragedy unfold on television and later identified the bodies of loved ones at the stadium could not win compensation for their psychiatric illness.

In another case, a father suffered psychiatric illness on the death of his son three days after the boy was injured in a road accident. The father was unable to recover damages from the negligent driver. He had gone directly to the hospital and sat at his son's bedside for three days before his life-support system was switched off. He was unable to recover damages because he was not close enough in time and space to the accident. Had his son died within hours of arrival at the hospital, and the father had then seen his body, he would have been able to recover.

Today, in a report with an accompanying draft Bill, the Law Commission recommends legislation to reform the law. Responses to our consultation paper confirmed that distinctions of the kind made in the two cases above are regarded as insensitive and arbitrary. How, then, should the law be reformed?

At one extreme, it can be argued that because drawing a satisfactory line between liability and no-liability is so difficult in this area, all liability for psychiatric illness suffered as a result of another person's death or injury should be abolished. But only a tiny minority



Andrew Burrows, above, on the law and compensation for mental illness

supported this approach: it was thought out of keeping with medical understanding of psychiatric illness and that it would exclude many deserving cases.

Though some people are sceptical about whether psychiatric illness is "real", evidence indicates that it can have devastating effects on people. And to reiterate: we are not talking about mere mental distress. The plaintiff has to prove that he or she is suffering a recognisable psychiatric illness caused by the defendant's negligence. At the other extreme, all the special restrictions could be removed, so that liability for psychiatric illness would be brought into line with liability for physical injury. This was supported by many of those we on the commission consulted. But our review of the medical research into psychiatric illness led us to conclude that, at least at this stage in the law's development, some special restrictions on liability are necessary in order to avoid the risk of opening the floodgates of litigation.

We think the most rational and fairest way to limit liability is by reference to the relationship between the plaintiff and the person killed or injured.

So we have recommended to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, that the restrictions based on closeness to the accident, and direct perception of it, should be removed; but that the requirement for a close tie of love and affection should in general be retained. We have also recommended that no specific reform is needed to the law on rescuers.

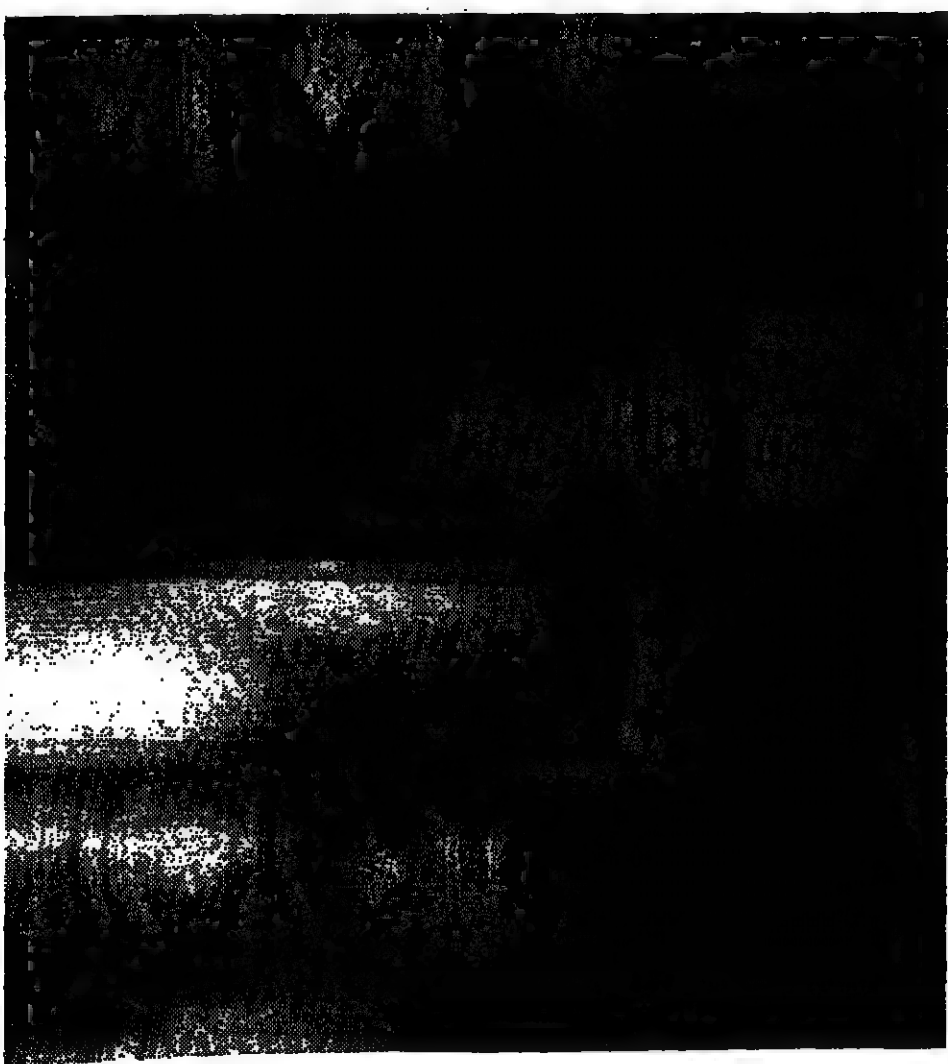
Our draft Bill provides a list of those relationships where there shall be deemed to be a close tie of love and affection between the plaintiff and the person killed or injured (spouse, parent, child, brother or sister, cohabitant) but also allows those not on the list to prove a close tie existed.

Our proposals would mean that a mother who can prove that she has suffered psychiatric illness as a result of seeing her son's sudden death, and a mother who can prove that she has suffered psychiatric illness as a result of watching her son slowly die in hospital, would both be entitled to damages from the negligent defendant responsible.

Professor Burrows is Professor of English Law at University College London, and a Law Commissioner for England and Wales. Liability for Psychiatric Illness, Law Commission Report No. 249 (Stationery Office, £16.35). The text of the report is available on the Internet at: <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/lawcom249/>

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## The College of Law

Developing the Profession

### Branch Director (Bloomsbury, London)

Salary: c. £60,000 plus benefits

The College of Law has been serving the needs of law students and the legal profession for nearly forty years and is now the largest postgraduate law school in the country operating in both the domestic and global market place. In addition, the College is continuing its commitment to assisting both branches of the legal profession to face the challenges of operating in a competitive and changing environment.

#### The Branch

The branch has over 150 staff, and some 2,000 students on pre-qualification training courses for solicitors and barristers.

#### The Post

Working closely with the College's Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive you will be responsible for the strategic management of the College's largest branch. Building contacts with the legal profession and the promotion of the branch to prospective students are also crucial to the role.

#### Our Requirements

You must have a professional qualification and a proven record of excellence in senior management within the legal profession or higher education. You must also have experience of dealing with strategic management issues, including budgetary control, business planning, academic leadership, staff management, marketing and quality management.

Please send your curriculum vitae and covering letter outlining your suitability for this post to Tracy Jepson at The College of Law, Broadbent Manor, St. Catherine's, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1HA. Fax: 01483 460283

Email: [tracy.jepson@lawcol.com](mailto:tracy.jepson@lawcol.com)

For further information about the post, please contact Tracy Jepson, Team Secretary on: 01483 460288.

If you wish to have an informal discussion about this position, please contact Nigel Savage, Chief Executive on: 01483 460288.

Closing date: Friday 20th March 1998

## Deputy Secretary

Pearson plc is an international media group with interests in publishing, television production, broadcasting, electronic and multi-media businesses. The group focuses on three key markets worldwide: Information (*The Financial Times*), education (*Addison Wesley Longman*) and entertainment (*Pearson Television*, *Penguin Books*, *Madame Tussauds*).

A superb opportunity has now arisen for a Chartered Secretary to head their small professional company secretarial team operating from the central London headquarters. Reporting to the Group Legal Director/Company Secretary and with a staff of 5 you will be responsible for ensuring that an excellent technical and support service is provided for all companies within the group and that best practice is observed throughout. Responsibilities will be varied and include statutory and stock exchange compliance, corporate governance issues, shareholder communication, the arrangement of the AGM, support on acquisitions and restructuring and a number of ad-hoc projects. Candidates with knowledge of international share schemes would be of particular interest.

The successful candidate will be a Chartered Secretary with a wealth of experience gained within at least one large listed company. You will have previous management experience and thrive in an environment where innovation and constant change is considered the norm. Whilst excellent technical and personnel skills are essential you will also need a highly commercial attitude to your work.

This is a high profile role within the organisation. It will require a forward thinking and proactive individual with an open mind and a flexible approach, who is equally comfortable with junior and executive members of staff. Whilst all applications will be considered it is unlikely that those under the age of 35 will have the maturity and depth of experience required for this post.

A competitive salary is offered together with a full range of benefits.

Pearson believes in equality of opportunity and employs people solely on the basis of their abilities.

For further details regarding this vacancy please contact Fiona Boxall or Jane Wallace.  
Send a copy of your CV or email them at [case@chambersrecruitment.co.uk](mailto:case@chambersrecruitment.co.uk)

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**CHAMBERS**  
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Have you ever considered recruitment, finding jobs for lawyers? We're expanding and we need another lawyer to join our team of consultants.

Recruitment will appeal to you if your greatest satisfaction comes from personal contact. Consultants spend all their time talking to people, interviewing them, understanding their likes and dislikes, trying to find the best possible solutions to their career problems. There's gratitude when you place them, and that's rewarding, but there's also the frustration, too, if things go wrong, and you have to be tolerant and helpful whatever happens.

If the hard-pressed sales image of some agencies puts you off - if you think you might end up selling candidates like so many bars of soap - let us tell you how we operate. Our philosophy is not to 'sell' but to judge the needs of both sides accurately and to introduce candidates only when there's mutual suitability. Fewer candidates are submitted this way, but when they are submitted they're in with an excellent chance, and then shouldn't be a need for 'persuasion'.

We also treat our consultants as adults. We pay well, but we don't pressure them with a system of targets and bonuses. We don't set them to compete with each other for the highest 'sales' figures. We have team players, and anyone who joins us will enjoy working in our team.

Michael Chambers

### INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Monwen Lewis, Aileen Shepherd, Fiona Boxall

**Media/Publishing: London**  
Publishing/broadcasting co seeks lawyer 1-3 years' ppe to handle libel and ITC work, non-contentious media, commercial contract drafting and employment issues.

**Commercial Lawyers: M4 Corridor**  
Commercial lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe for expanding dept of well-known international services company to handle general commercial law, contract negotiation and employment law. In-house background desirable.

**Global Corporate: London**  
3-5 year ppe corporate lawyer with ability to see the global picture needed by international company with Japanese connections. A good understanding of EC and general company/commercial law is important.

**PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson, Paul Thomas**  
SOUTH: Noel Murray, Hedley Walsh NORTH: Suld Behra

**Banking Partner: City**  
Wonderful opportunity for mainstream banking solicitor to head new group in one of the leading accountancy-related law firms.

**Corporate: City**  
Top tier practice with the best Fortune 500 client list in the City seeks 1-5 year qualified solicitor for broad caseload including listings and cross-border M&A.

**Head of London Office: W1**  
Successful Manchester firm seeks ambitious partner with commercial litigation and employment experience and a part following to head its new London office.

**Snr Company/Commercial: Central London**  
City 50 partner firm committed to further expansion of an already strong corporate dept seeks senior assistant on cusp of partnership or junior partner.

**Insolvency: City**  
Niche insolvency practice with superb client base offers quality work and real career prospects to 1-2 year qual insolvency lawyer with an interest in marketing.

### Housebuilder: Midlands

National housebuilder seeks senior lawyer with experience of residential housing for management role. Junior staff handle plot sales, leaving you free to focus on complex transactions.

**Legal Adviser: London**  
Energetic hardworking and commercially minded young lawyer to join HQ of major international manufacturing plc. Must have sound common law experience and enjoy working in a very fast moving stimulating environment.

**Charity/Property: South Wales**  
Charity and commercial property specialist is needed by charity with a small legal department. Experience of trusts and a flexible management style is important.

### Private Client: City

Leading private client practice with glamorous clientele seeks 1-3 year qualified solicitor for broad caseload with emphasis on trusts and tax planning.

**Intellectual Property: City**  
City office of successful national firm seeks 1-3 year qualified IP litigator to join its high profile IP team to handle patent, TM and passing off disputes.

**Commercial Property: Holborn**  
Medium-sized property-led firm with friendly working environment seeks 0-1 yr qualified solicitor for blue chip institutional and developer clientele.

**Employment: WC2**  
Unusually WC2 firm with strong corporate and IT practice seeks NQ-1 year employment lawyer to assist a partner on contentious and non-contentious employment.

**Defendant Medical Negligence: London**  
Rated practice with heavy NHS involvement seeks to strengthen its respected med neg dept at Jnr and Sen level. Relevant expere essential from regional or London firms.

## IN-HOUSE LITIGATION MANAGER

### centrica

Centrica is a FTSE 100 company with a 1997 turnover of £7.84 bn providing energy and energy-related products and services to homes and businesses in the UK under the trading name of British Gas. The company was created a year ago as a result of the British Gas demerger allowing it to concentrate more effectively on its diverse core markets which include gas supply and trading, servicing and installation, retail and the operation of its Morecambe gas fields.

An opportunity has arisen for an astute and organised litigation manager to join the company at its offices in Staines. This is a newly created position reporting to the Legal Manager of British Gas Services. Overseeing the work of two legal

executives, the role will require the successful candidate to advise on a high volume of civil and employment litigation, managing and instructing external counsel when the situation requires and representing the company at Industrial Tribunals. Achieving fast and cost effective settlements of claims will be a vital part of the role.

The successful candidate will be a qualified Solicitor, with 2-4 years' PQE in general civil litigation, including strong contentious employment knowledge and in-depth experience of County Court defendant work. More importantly, candidates should be highly organised and target-driven lawyers able to forge strong working relationships with key personnel both within the Group and externally. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to work proactively to reduce costs and to achieve early settlement of claims.

The successful candidate can expect a competitive basic salary and benefits package which includes a car and performance-related bonus.

If you believe you can meet our requirements, please contact our retained advising consultant, Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal, First Floor, High Holborn House, 32-34 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 931 6498.

Email: [lindseynewman@hwgroup.com](mailto:lindseynewman@hwgroup.com)  
<http://www.hwgroup.com>

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## EMPLOYMENT LAW

IDS Brief requires a lawyer to provide maternity cover in the team researching and writing on employment law for the fortnightly Journal and a range of handbooks used by personnel managers, unions, lawyers and tribunals. IDS Brief is the legal department of Incomes Data Services, the UK's leading independent employment research organisation.

Applicants should have studied employment law at least to degree level, and should have excellent writing skills. A demonstrable interest in employment law is essential and practical experience would be a distinct advantage. Applicants must be self-starters, able to work to deadlines as part of a small team. Basic familiarity with word processing is necessary, and interpersonal skills are important.

Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience, but will be in the range: £17,970 to £20,970 plus bonus with five weeks' holiday. This appointment will be a one-year fixed term contract.

A letter of application explaining how you fit our requirements plus a CV should be sent to:

Jenny Bell, Administration Manager, IDS Brief,  
77 Buxwick Street, London EC1V 3JT

Your letter should if possible include daytime and home telephone numbers and must reach us by Friday, 20th March.

## The Partners of JACKSON PARTON

are pleased to announce that  
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**NIGEL WATERSON MP**

has joined the partnership.

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## LEGAL AFFAIRS MANAGER £30K

A leading trade body in the advertising sector, the Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd, is looking for a bright and articulate person with legal qualifications, drafting skills, and relevant commercial experience to assist the Director of Legal Affairs in:

- Lobbying on prospective legislation.
- Negotiating the implementation of EU Directives in the UK.
- Developing new self-regulatory initiatives.
- Advising members on legal and commercial matters.

The DMA (UK) has over 700 member organisations operating in the fast growing direct marketing sector, and a staff of 25.

Its offices are in Piccadilly and prospects of advancement are good for the right candidate.

Please apply to the Director of Legal Affairs, Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd, Haymarket House, 1 Oxendon Street, London SW1Y 4EE giving details of qualifications/relevant experience.

## SOLICITOR/BARRISTER

Salary circa £25,000 pa London W1

The Retail Motor Industry Federation is the principal organisation representing the motor trade in the United Kingdom the members of which sell, service, repair and recover all types of motor vehicles, and sell fuel.

A vacancy exists for a lawyer at the Head Office in London to join a team providing advice on a whole range of matters, but principally commercial, consumer and employment law.

The position offers an excellent opportunity for developing experience in a broad field of commercial activity.

In addition to an attractive salary, a range of benefits is offered, including 25 days annual holiday, contributory pension scheme and private health insurance.

Please apply in confidence with full CV, including details of current salary, by 31 March 1998 to:

Mr D Evans  
Company Secretary,  
Retail Motor Industry Federation Ltd,  
201 Great Portland Street,  
London W1N 6AB





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## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:  
0171 782 7899

## INVESTMENT BANKING

The current bout of merger activity has done nothing to stifle demand for high calibre lawyers in our US, European and Japanese investment banking clients

## CAPITAL MARKETS

If you are a young capital markets lawyer with 1-5 years' experience who has the drive to enjoy the many benefits of in-house, then you could hardly do better than this leading investment bank, which offers top-notch experience and responsibility to match a salary that you will never get in private practice. Ref: TB47084

## US SECURITIES

It is not just in private practice that US securities lawyers are much sought after. It is also at top international finance houses like this one. If you can show 4-6 years' top quality experience and a real zest for your work, then this finance house will offer huge rewards to ensure you join its highly-esteemed team. Ref: TB45700

## TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT

Life on the trading floor is a world away from the office, making this opening at a famous bank only suitable for strong, lively types who can stand up for themselves. A wonderful package if you fit the bill and have 1-7 years' experience in this exciting capital markets, and ideally structured products, work. Ref: TB47195

## TAKESTRUCTURED FINANCE

This top international bank offers experienced lawyers with 3-6 years' post the ideal opportunity to become involved in the exceptionally lucrative structured finance work. If you can show good capital markets, and especially bank and regulatory capital, experience or a background in structured finance work, Ref: TB38314

## GENERAL FINANCE

Not only is this major finance house looking for generalist corporate or capital markets lawyers with 3-8 years' experience to work on equity financing matters, but it will encourage them to stay with the bank, with work concentrating on prime brokerage, stock lending, dividend arbitrage, and FX, repo and commodities. Ref: TB44396

## CAPITAL MARKETS

Exciting in-house banking opportunities do not arise very often at the junior end, making this opening at a top international investment bank especially good. With 1-5 years' experience in general banking or capital markets work, you will enjoy a spread of capital markets and more general commercial matters. Ref: TB43370

## M&amp;A ATTORNEY

If you think you have gone as far as you can or want to where you are now, then this market-leading international bank offers a perfect way out. It needs a US-qualified M&amp;A attorney with 6-10 years' experience from one of the leading US practices. In return, it will give you the status you deserve and a salary to match. Ref: TB44709

## EXECUTION GROUP

The prospect of capital promotion and some of the best bonuses around are very real at this top international investment bank, especially if you are a corporate finance lawyer with 3+ years' experience from a top City firm. You will be working on capital markets matters, but, relaxing, experience is not vital. Ref: TB38019

Phone call William Cook, Alison Jacobs or Suzanne Hail (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6662 (0171-405 5727 or 0171-731 5699 evenings/weekends) or alternatively write to them at QJ Legal - Banking, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidentiality Ref: 0171-831 6394.

## Good Job Hunting

## PRIVATE PRACTICE

Environmental to £45K  
City's Major firm has unusual role for lawyer 1-4PQE to assist on national/international issues encompassing corporate finance, property and litigation matters.Project Finance to £35K  
City's law firm seeks banking/asset finance lawyers to SPQE to deal with ship, aircraft or rolling stock finance work on high value projects.Property to £25K  
City's Prestigious firm has several roles for top notch lawyers NQ-4PQE to work on, inter alia, on high quality matters. Exp of brownfield site acquisitions useful.

## IN-HOUSE

Publishing to £25K  
London Publishing Co seeks legal adviser with 1-3PQE and media background. Exp in defamation, IT-related work, litigation & employment matters.Telecoms to £25K  
If Canadian North American telecoms on seeks lawyer SPQE to act as UK sole legal adviser. Must have excellent telecoms experience. Overseas travel.Employee Relations to £25K  
London HQ-1PQE to specialise in employee benefits work. Will train up bright candidates with a law/corporate background.Property Lit to £25K  
City's Three of the City's biggest property firms actively seek litigators NQ-3PQE to handle Lit, 1954 Act renewals, real reviews and service charges.Insolvency to £25K  
City's Insolvency experts with a minimum of 1PQE up to partner level are sought by major City firm to join its growing corporate recovery/re-organisation team.EU/Competition to £25K  
London/Brussels City trained lawyers NQ-SPQE sought by large firm to advise on, inter alia, the applicability of EC directives. Either location available.Derivatives to £25K  
City's European financial institution seeks lawyer 2PQE to liaise with business line, credit and back office. Knowledge of ISDA master agreements vital.Claims to £25K  
London's Junior lawyer sought by leading P&I Club to handle claims with business line, credit division. Will train up bright candidates. Overseas travel.Litigation to £25K  
London's Lawyer 2-SPQE seeking in-house role, sought by int'l financial institution to deal with regulatory, trading, systems risk control and employment.IP to £25K  
City's Major firm urgently seeks IP specialist, ideally with scientific background to handle patent litigation & house between junior assistants and junior partners.Commercial to £25K  
Bangladesh Well established firm seeks two lawyers 3-4PQE to join corporate group; one to handle commercial work, the other insolvency/re-organisation issues.Corporate to £25K  
City's US qualified securities lawyer 1-6PQE sought by City firm. Candidates are likely to have connections with, and knowledge of, the UK scene.Compliance to £25K  
City's Lawyer 3PQE+ sought by UK based investment banking group to deal with compliance within the corporate and structured finance department.Retail to £25K  
If Canadian Household name seeks several lawyers to join leading low income group. A senior role involves policy formulation & consumer affairs.Finance to £25K  
City's US bank seeks lawyer 2-SPQE to provide advice on asset securitisation, corporate/structured finance, structured credit and tax driven transactions.

For further information about these positions, or to discuss the various career options available, contact:

Andrew Nelson  
Deborah Knowles  
Lynne McCarrall  
Lucy Boyd

LIPSON LLOYD JONES  
LEGAL RECRUITMENT  
127 Chancery Lane  
London  
EC2V 6BT  
Tel: 0171 600 1690  
Fax: 0171 600 1972

## London Practice • In-House

## COMMERCIAL

Rare opportunity in this small, innovative City firm to handle an extensive range of pure commercial work (with a strong international flavour) in a congenial environment. Languages preferred.

## EMPLOYMENT

This friendly Holborn firm is highly regarded in this field and, due to fantastic growth in the last year, now seeks an additional lawyer to join their young team. A real opportunity to make a mark in a supportive team environment.

## MED NEG

This thriving niche practice is pre-eminent in this field and its long standing reputation and first class client base ensures top quality work. A 2:1 degree is preferred.

## FAMILY

Great opportunity in this highly regarded Mayfair practice to undertake a broad range of matrimonial work with the emphasis on ancillary relief. Ongoing personality essential in this lively atmosphere.

## KNOW HOW

Full/Part time We are instructed on a number of know how positions (for lawyers 2yrs+ ppe) in Corporate, Property, IP/IT, Projects, Banking, Capital Markets, Employment and Pensions. An excellent alternative to long hours and time sheets!

## PERSONAL INJURY

NQ-1yr Leading firm with excellent reputation seeks 0-12mth ppe defendant personal injury solicitor. Strong academics are required.

## X-BORDER CORPORATE

Facing partnership bottleneck? One of the success stories of recent years, our client is seeking to add to its already impressive team by recruiting a senior lawyer for front line M&amp;A/MBO role. Outstanding prospects at firm which offers genuine alternative to major City practices.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LIT

One of London's leading practices, our client now seeks an ambitious lawyer for a broad contentious/non-contentious as well as involvement in crisis management team. Key role in team's growth.

## COMMERCIAL PROP

c.15 partner City practice with strong property reputation seeks bright lawyer for wide-ranging caseload with no corporate support work. Small team offering friendly working environment and opportunity for life outside the office.

## CORPORATE

Excellent role offering extensive client contact and wide-ranging caseload. Friendly c.30 partner firm which has recruited large numbers of lawyers seeking an alternative to a large firm atmosphere.

## TRAINING MANAGER

Part time Unique part time (3/4 days p/w) role at London firm which includes advising on all aspects of training, graduate recruitment and some involvement in marketing. Good organisational skills, strong academic background and a lively and creative approach are vital.

## INTELLECTUAL PROP

V. London - Business-minded IP lawyer to join highly regarded legal team of blue chip FMCG co, a world leader in marketing &amp; branding. Varied, high quality work, concentrating on IP rights in Europe &amp; the Eastern Hemisphere. Experience of patent matters and/or science degree ideal.

## COMMERCIAL

Insurance Co, London - Great opportunity for bright commercial lawyer to join market leader. Supportive team environment, varied commercial workload &amp; excellent prospects for career development.

## INT'L COMMERCIAL

Survey - Highly successful international trading company seeks bright, City trained co/cor lawyer to join small team, working in a dynamic fast moving environment. Int'l commercial &amp; some corporate work.

## IRELAND

Head of Business Affairs Successful int'l firm co based in Shannon seeks Head of Legal/Bus Affairs. Copyright expect desirable commercial involvement. Min 2yrs ppe. To £45k + bens. Call ASAP.

## OIL/GAS

London - Market leading co seeks a high calibre lawyer. Ideally with some energy sector exp to join well respected team.

## NORTH EAST

Leading edge technology co seeks a 2nd lawyer. Some IT experience ideal, but good commercial lawyer considered.



0171 430 1711

## Lawyer

The City • £60,000 salary + bonus + major banking benefits

Our client is a market-leading financial institution with a worldwide reputation for excellence. Maintaining a powerful presence in London, they are growing from strength to strength and now wish to build on their success by appointing a Lawyer to join their legal team.

Acting under your own initiative and as part of a team reporting directly to the Head of Legal, you will handle an extensive range of banking/commercial law issues. It's a challenging role playing a crucial part in sharpening their profile across every sector.

A qualified Solicitor/Barrister from a major international law firm or financial institution, you will have general commercial/international banking experience. This will be combined with a strong technical

knowledge of banking transactions including syndicated lending, asset finance and securitisation. Naturally, you'll also have a secure grasp of legal issues and first rate drafting skills. A flexible, supportive team player, your enthusiasm and commitment will be central to your success.

In return the rewards offered are significant. So, take a step forward with a first-rate global bank that's not just leading the way, it's defining it.

If you're ready for the challenge, then please write, enclosing your CV and current salary, to Toni Moyse, TMP Worldwide, 32 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JL, quoting ref: R1148.



## PRIVATE PRACTICE

## CONSTRUCTION

A senior assistant with contentious and non-contentious experience is sought by this leading international practice. The successful applicant will have exposure to heavy duty infrastructure programmes, such as power stations, off-shore buildings and oil and gas. The firm is eminently international and offers the genuine prospect of early partnership. Ref: 6002.

## EMPLOYMENT

This City firm is different from the rest and has a young, open and dynamic culture. Highly regarded for its employment law expertise, it seeks to add to its friendly team. Work is diverse, for employees and employers and is high-profile. Ref: 5137.

## COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

This leading commercial firm with a strong European presence continues to expand and is searching for two assistants to join its close knit London team. One to handle the broad range of commercial disputes, the other will have a bias towards insolvency practice. Ref: 6024.

## COMPANY/COMMERCIAL (DUBAI)

Having completed your training in a "City" firm you will be keen to gain some international experience at this early stage of your career. Your legal and commercial skills will be enhanced through close client contact and the diversity of work on offer. Ref: 5839.

## COMPANY/COMMERCIAL (MEDIA GROUP)

Team (1 partner and 4 assistants) in top 15 City practice handles work on behalf of media/sports and telecoms clients. The Group, which is part of a large corporate department, seeks a bright, quality-driven junior associate with transactional experience in M&amp;A's, JV's etc and an interest in media-related work. Ref: 5989.

## PLANNING

Friendly and profitable, 13 partner City firm known for its property expertise seeks planning lawyers with 1-5 years' PQE and more senior with followings. The firm acts for household names in the retail, investment and development sectors. Good partnership prospects. Ref: 6026.



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RICHARD WILSON & CO

Probate and Trust practitioner

The successful candidate will be of partnership material, able to maintain our high level of service. There are definite partnership prospects.

CV to: Carol F. Lewis  
Richard Wilson & Co  
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pangbourne@richard-wilson.co.ukMeadow House  
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Key tasks will include:  
• Strategic planning and marketing for both Chambers and individual barristers.  
• Enhancing the reputation of Chambers.  
• Working effectively and in co-operation with members and support staff.  
• Administration and management of Chambers including the clerking team.  
The successful candidate will already have a proven track record ideally within a professional service orientated environment.

Whilst a knowledge of the mechanics of law would be desirable, more importance will be placed on strong interpersonal and leadership skills and the ability to work within a unique business structure.

For further information contact Catherine Boyle LLB on 0113 245 3181 or send your full CV quoting ref: PW270CB to Cavendish Boyle, Royal House, Sovereign Street, LEEDS LS1 4BJ.

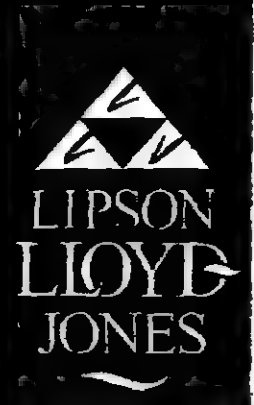


## The Best In The North West

With ten of the north west's most prominent firms featuring in the UK top 50 (by size), it is no surprise that our Manchester office is busier than ever. The quality and quantity of commercial work flowing through the north west is indicative of the spirit, vitality and confidence throughout the region. The leading firms in Manchester are handling major retail and office developments, corporate deals and commercial litigation cases every bit as challenging as those of their City counterparts.

Lipson Lloyd-Jones's commitment to the legal profession in the north is total. With established offices in Leeds and Manchester, our coverage and understanding of the intricacies of the market place are comprehensive.

We understand that your next move is crucial and our policy is to invest the time and energy essential to ensure that your specific requirements are met.

Contact **Andrew Oliver** now to find out how we can help you find the right job, the right package and the best career prospects.LIPSON LLOYD-JONES  
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Manchester M2 4DN  
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Fax: 0161 288 2820Trusts, tax and probate  
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to communicate with clients  
and a proven track record in a  
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EXAMINATION  
JULY 1998

The next examination for those seeking appointment as a Notary Public in England and Wales is to be held in London on 6th JULY 1998.

Applicants who are solicitors are required to take Part IV of the examination consisting of papers on 'Notarial Practice' and 'Bills of Exchange'.

Full details of the syllabus, suggested reading list and also the method of appointment are available (by postal application only) from: The Registrar, The Court of Faculties, The Stationery Office, Westminster, SW1P 3JT. (DX 2301 Victoria)

## Legal and Business Affairs Executive

Pearson Television is the leading UK Independent Television producer, and the Production Division provides programmes to all the major networks in the UK.

We're currently looking for a 1997-qualifier to join our Legal and Business Affairs department. Working as part of the team responsible for UK Productions, you will be involved in a wide variety of tasks in support of the production units. A combination of legal rigour together with a commercial approach is required. This position would ideally suit someone who has had a media seat during their Articles.

To apply, please write to Alex Lee, Head of Legal and Business Affairs, Worldwide Productions, Pearson Television, 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 1PL, by 12 March 1998.

We believe in equality of opportunity and employ people solely on the basis of their abilities.



A PEARSON COMPANY



## CRICKET

# Graveney's arrival revives debate on Atherton's role

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRIDGETOWN

WHILE the rest of England's Test match batsmen were taking modest advantage of an undemanding Barbados attack yesterday, Michael Atherton, the absent captain, was once again the centre of attention. No matter that he may yet lead his side to victory in the Test series, the latest speculation concerns his role in the decidedly secondary one-day series to follow.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, has rejoined the tour party to supervise the specialist one-day players arriving next week. His presence, allied to his previously acknowledged preference for Adam Hobbins as limited-overs captain, was sufficient to inspire another debate over the man who surely has the most unforgiving job in sport.

Having dithered so long, last autumn, over continuing as captain, Atherton was never blind to the personal hazards of this tour but probably imagined that his future would not become a daily issue once more, at least until the Test series was decided. Even that privilege is apparently denied.

Graveney gave a media conference yesterday and found himself pressed over whether Atherton might now stand down as one-day captain or even be excluded on form. Non-committal though he was, the impression remained that it would, in time, be a matter for discussion.

"We have options, because

Adam has been named as vice-captain," Graveney said. "I will assess the situation with Atherton when the time is right but there are still two Tests to come. I am optimistic that his form will return and it would be quite wrong to disturb the Test preparations by debating the one-day side."

Atherton devotes so much mental and physical energy to Test cricket that it would have been wise to excuse him in advance from the one-day cricket, at least so far as the leadership was concerned. It was on the insistence of two selectors, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, rather than any firm wish of his own, that he was given this entire tour in charge and the decision may soon be seen as misguided.

No man can endure indefinitely as captain of a losing England team, especially when short of runs himself, and the scrutiny of Atherton's every word and action has resumed in earnest. The Test match that starts on Thursday will be another examination of his character, the sort he habitually relishes.

Graveney defended his captain's decision to miss the three-day match that ended yesterday, saying: "If he wishes to prepare himself with decent net practice, I am perfectly happy." And, in truth, proceedings for those in action at Kensington Oval have been nothing more than glorified net practice.

The final day, watched al-

most exclusively by an advance guard of England supporters, meandered meaninglessly to stalemate, as was inevitable after the refusal of Barbados to make a challenging declaration. England set out to bat through the day and almost everyone relevant made some runs.

There were two areas of concern. Despite blissful batting conditions, nobody went on to make what would have been only the second England century on tour — the scores of the top six ranged from Ramprakash's 44 to Butcher's 79 — and Jack Russell failed again. He made only seven before falling to the erratic leg spin of Terry Rollock and his batting is increasingly negligible in his defence of the wicketkeeping position.

The most significant news of the day emerged from a meeting of the West Indies selectors, who decided to replace both their opening batsmen in an otherwise unchanged squad. Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams have been dropped after playing the last 14 Tests together, selectorial surgery easily justified by the lack of a single substantial first-wicket stand in the series to date.

England, however, may not be awed by those chosen instead. Clayton Lambert, the Guyanese left-hander, is 36 and played his only Test at the Oval seven years ago. Philo Wallace, the Barbados captain, made his debut against Pakistan in Rawalpindi late last year and has not been picked since. Both are compulsive aggressors, which should at least guarantee an improvement on the dire entertainment level of yesterday.

WEST INDIES (from): P A Wallace, C B Lambert, S C Lara (capt), S Chandrasekhar, C L Hooper, J C Adams, D Williams, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose, D Walker, D Ramnarine, R C Holder, N A McMillan.



Tendulkar maintains the tempo with an aggressive pull in his innings of 155 not out

## Tendulkar puts India on brink

AUSTRALIA yesterday experienced one of their worst days in Test cricket since England outplayed them at Edgbaston last June and are in grave danger today of losing the first Test to India in Madras (Simon Wilde writes). They lost three wickets in the final hour after India spent the day scoring freely before declaring at 418 for four and leaving them 348 to win.

Australia may be the unofficial world Test champions but they would gladly find room for Sachin Tendulkar had he been born in Brisbane and not Bombay. He outwitted their efforts at containment at every turn as he moved serenely — and sometimes violently — to an unbeaten 155 off 191 balls before Azharuddin called a halt.

"It is difficult to stop Sachin when he is in such an attacking mood," his captain said later. "There can be no doubt that he is the best batsman in the world. Most of his

hundreds are brilliant." Unlike many of Tendulkar's Test centuries — of which there have been 15 in 59 matches — this one may be rewarded with victory, as Australia, after an exhausting day in the heat, quickly lost Slater, Blewett and Taylor.

Kumble dismissed Blewett with his first ball and Taylor with his tenth, the last of the day, and should be a key figure today.

It may require a major

innings from Steve Waugh, another of the world's best batsmen, if Australia are to escape, although India must bowl better at the tail than they did in the first innings.

Tendulkar, who hit 14 fours and four sixes, built on the good work done by Sidhu, who took the attack to Warner the previous evening. Warner conceded 79 runs from 22 overs yesterday despite bowling defensively from round the wicket.

### MADRAS SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First Innings 287 (N S Sidhu 62, N R Mongia 58, R Dravid 52)	32-7-120-1: Blewett 10-0-35-1; M E Waugh 9-0-44-1; S R Waugh 6-0-37-0
Second Innings	
IN R Mongia bowled by Blewett	18
N S Sidhu c Ponting b Robertson	64
R Dravid c Healy b Warner	58
S R Tendulkar not out	155
M Azharuddin c S R Waugh	64
S M E Waugh	33
S C Ganguly not out	30
Extras (lb 16, lb 6, nb 7)	29
Total (4 wickets)	418
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-115, 3-228, 4-289	
BOWLING: Kapretnicz 14-0-42-0; Ruffell 9-1-35-0; Robertson 27-4-82-1; Warner	

## Second collapse leaves Pakistan close to defeat

FROM IVO TENNANT IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (fourth day of five): Pakistan, with three second-innings wickets in hand, need 274 runs to beat South Africa.

IN LEAVING, Pakistan, to score 394, more than any of their sides have managed to win a match, South Africa can hardly have envisaged that the touring team would fail so poorly for a second successive day. Three wickets remain for today, when only rain will prevent the inevitable outcome.

Pakistan would have had to surpass their achievement against Australia at Karachi in 1993, when they gained a memorable victory by making 315 for nine. It was so apparent that there was scant chance of that. Indeed, a defeat in four days appeared to be their lot at one stage.

After playing with such discipline at Durban, Pakistan's batting here has been dismal. Dismissed on a decent pitch for 106 in the first innings, they lost their first six wickets for 93 yesterday. Idris Hussain did not drop Inzamam-ul-Haq at third slip before he had scored and then Saeed Anwar, at deepish mid-wicket when on 31, then could well have been an early finish.

"We played the way South Africa's cricketers should play — aggressive and hard," Bob Woolmer, their coach, said. He would have liked, ideally, to have taken the lead to 420 before declaring — like everybody else, he is respectful of Pakistan's innate talents: Kalis, who scored 69, including seven fours, and Ackerman, who made 42, made sufficient runs before Waqar Younis took three wickets after lunch.

He is the one Pakistan cricketer who need not re-proach himself, having finished with 100 wickets in a Test for the fifth time. He was required to bat again last night, which will not have pleased him. His side was not helped by Amir Sohail having to go in down the order owing to injury, but the woe-

begone looks last night deserved no pity.

Ijaz Ahmed was leg-before to De Villiers through a poor defensive shot. Inzamam, who has had an unproductive series, achieved one scoring shot in 57 minutes before he made to drive at Adams and was nearly stumped by Boucher. The wicketkeeper is proving to be quite a find.

Moin Khan was leg-before to a cleverly disguised slower ball from Donald, but Saeed Anwar, the one batsman to cope, reached a half-century before he drove extravagantly at Donald and was well held at first slip. Wasim Akram, promoted in spite of a lack of match practice, was taken at the wicket down the leg side. Rashid Latif, whose pair emphasised that he should not be in the side, was caught at gully off a ball that Adams turned considerably. Little remains for today.

### SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 293 (W J Cronje 85, M V Boucher 52, Waqar Younis 6 for 78)	Second Innings
G Jansen c Ruffell b Ackerman	44
A M Boucher c Ruffell b Waugh	11
J H Kallis c Ruffell b Ackerman	60
M L Ackerman c Inzamam b Adams	40
A C Hudson b Waugh	4
W J Cronje not out	7
S P Pollock b Waugh	2
M V Boucher b Waugh	2
Extras (lb 1, lb 6, w 1, nb 10)	18
Total (7 wickets)	208
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-92, 3-170, 4-185, 5-187, 6-198, 7-208	
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 18-0-57-0; Waqar Younis 17-4-55-4; Saeed Anwar 15-1-50-0; Ashraf Mairuddin 15-0-48-3; Amir Sohail 1-0-0	
Pakistan: First Innings 106 (P S de Villiers 5 for 23)	Second Innings
Saeed Anwar c Kallis b Donald	28
Ijaz Ahmed bowled by De Villiers	18
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Boucher b Adams	4
Moin Khan bowled by Donald	1
Wasim Akram c Boucher b Pollock	3
Ashraf Mairuddin not out	30
Amir Sohail bowled by Adams	7
Rashid Latif c Kallis b Adams	0
Waqar Younis not out	3
Total (7 wickets)	120
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-57, 3-70, 4-75, 5-81, 6-92, 7-101	
BOWLING: Donald 13-3-21-0; Pollock 15-2-31-0; De Villiers 11-4-24-0; Adams 16-8-36-3	
Umpires: S R Curran (New Zealand) and R E Koster (South Africa)	

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